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# THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD

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THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PRIZE ESSAYS, 1958:

THE ROLE OF THE LIBRARY IN AN INCREASINGLY TECHNICAL WORLD

A DEFENCE OF THE BOOK AGAINST ITS CONTEMPORARY RIVALS

LIBRARIES FOR OVERSPILL POPULATIONS

THE BEARDS OF THISTLE

PHOTO-PUNCH CHARGING

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL TOOLS IN THE SMALL LIBRARY

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Library Association News-Sheet

VOL. 60 NO. II

NOVEMBER 1958

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## A Librarian's Calendar

- November 19th-December 11th.—L.A. Examinations.
- November 20th.—A.A.L. (G.L.D.), afternoon visit to Whitbread's Brewery; evening visit to Guildhall Library.
- November 20th.—University and Research Section (London Group), informal meeting, American Library, 41 Grosvenor Square, W.1, 6.30 p.m. Dr. Roy Basler (Reference Librarian, Library of Congress) will speak.
- November 22nd.—University and Research Section, Glasgow Univ.L., A.G.M., followed by ordinary meeting. A speaker on Glasgow printing and publishing.
- November 26th-28th.—L.A. Committees and Council.
- November 26th.—Youth Section, Greenock P.L. B.B.C. representative on children's books and encouragement in reading.
- November 28th.—Medical Section, visit to Royal Army Medical College, Millbank, S.W.1, 6 p.m.
- December 3rd.—A.A.L. (Sussex Div.), Hove Public Library, 6.30 p.m. John Braine on "Writing for a living".

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- January 2nd-3rd.—University and Research Section, London week-end conference.
- January 13th.—Reference & Special Libraries Section (S.E. Group). Wine and cheese party, Chaucer House.

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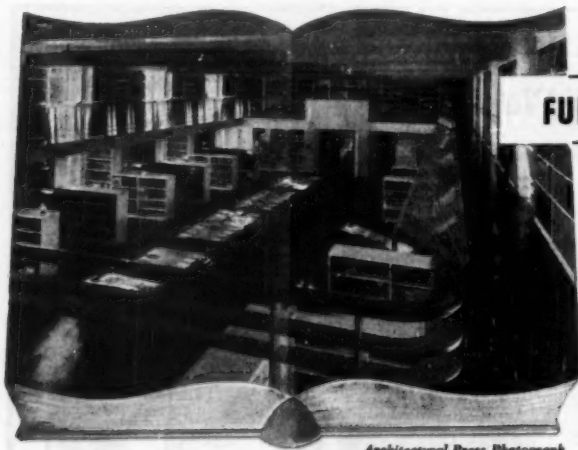
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# The Library Association Record

NOVEMBER 1958

## The Library Association Prize Essays 1958

### (1) The Role of the Library in an Increasingly Technical World

By D. J. SIMPSON, B.Sc.(Econ.), F.L.A., *Sutton and Cheam Public Library*

TO discover the role of the library in an increasingly technical world, we must first decide its role in any sort of world. This particular field of thought has been entered so often, by so many librarians and others, that the grass has long ago been trodden down and the question obscured by mud or dust as the seasons change. Some paths carry heavy traffic, as the long processions of hobby horses are ridden over them, but since these paths usually lead round in circles, in time the riders face all ways and finally end up where they began. A survey of this disorderly scene would need much more than one essay, so that the ideas outlined below are more in the nature of a manifesto than an assessment.

*Libraries generally.* Thomas Hobbes, in *Leviathan*, gives his famous picture of a State of Nature having "No arts; no letters; no society; and which is worst of all, continual fear and danger of sudden death; and the life of man solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short." Anthropologists doubt whether man ever existed under these conditions, but at least it is certain that only by co-operating in communities and enjoying the increase of goods made available by the division of labour can we achieve a standard of living above that of the apes. Specialization is vital to a good standard of life, and if the standard is to be improved, each generation must use and profit from the capital equipment made by earlier generations. This is true of material goods and also of the world of ideas, for man cannot raise himself above a simple peasant economy without receiving many ideas in the form of records intelligible to the people using them. They might be Exchequer tallies, ciné films, books, clay tablets or pulses in the memory banks of an electronic computer, but they must all be stored, sorted and made available. Wherever this is done,

the art of the librarian appears, perhaps in its rudiments, when the filing clerk is at work, perhaps in the massive mystique of documentation, or when the bookman helps readers he meets to find their way through the mass of literature at large to those books that will help them.

The library, whatever form it takes, is a fundamental of civilization. Indeed, our civilization today has reached the point where access to well-guided records is essential to the maintenance of life at its present level. Without these records, industry, transport and trade would decay, and depression, famine, disease and a drastic reduction of world population would ensue. The governments of large states could not work without libraries, since their political and economic institutions are so complex and ramified that only by the constant use of written records can large-scale planning and administration be carried on. To produce the wealth for such a world, technology, and its progenitor, science, must flourish and develop constantly; and similarly their attendant records must increase at an ever faster pace.

So far we have thought only of man and his civilization—the devices and organizations which we have established to try to control the conditions of life. This civilization is only a means, and not an end in itself. It is only the "how", and not the "why". The end in view is in our culture—the ways in which we express our nature in our modes of living, thinking and intercourse. While most people would agree on the function of the library in helping the progress of civilization, the relation of the library to culture is anything but agreed. Progress in human culture is not as easily determined as progress in civilization. A printer may decide easily that one press is more efficient than another, but if the inferior press is

printing Shakespeare's plays, while the superior one churns out horror comics, it is fair to suggest that progress in civilization need not mean progress in culture. But there is no absolute answer to this problem, since people differ a great deal in their ideas of what is good or evil. If society moves nearer to what they consider to be ideal, they will say it has progressed. Since ideals vary, one group considering a society over a given period of history might think it progressive, while another group would see only a decline, e.g., the opinions of Samuel Smiles and William Blake on the English Industrial Revolution.

Among cultural ideals, two great approaches can be seen—the authoritarian and the liberal. The authoritarians claim that absolute truth can be discovered, sometimes by supernatural means, and that once this has been done, all men should be brought to know it and discouraged from acquiring other ideas, which are by definition false. Compulsion of various kinds (e.g., social and economic pressure, or even physical force), is a common means of enforcing these ideals for the ultimate good of those coerced into virtue, and so we need not be surprised to find political or religious organizations who support the censorship of recorded ideas. In contrast, the liberals point out that where incompatible ideals are held, some of them are bound to be wrong, and that where disagreement exists, it is as well to hear all sides in case it is we who are wrong. This point of view was forcibly put in John Stuart Mill's essay "On liberty", which pointed out that an idea may be true, false or partly true. If it is true, then publication is clearly good; if false, then publication will lead to public rebuttal and a vindication of the opposing truth. But many ideas and beliefs are partly true, partly false, and only free discussion can help people to sort out the truth from the falsehood. This covers all possible cases and disposes of the case for censorship. Indeed, censorship usually assumes that all but the censors are childish or mentally deficient.

The library is an essential to a free society since it alone allows access to the whole range of recorded human thought. The school introduces its pupils to a group of ideas determined by those who control the school. The media of mass-communication (wireless, television, films, mass-circulation magazines and newspapers) need such a vast capital outlay in order to exist at all that their offerings are conditioned by backers, advertisers and any pressure groups large and strong enough to influence these sources of revenue. Schools and the mass media may produce men so well integrated into their social

environment that they may never think that the environment might need adjusting rather than the men in it. Such men only want to run with the herd. They lack original ideas and will never alter or reform anything. Of course, a library can be filled merely with safe ideas acceptable to the mass mind, but it is a poor emasculated thing, of no use to those enquiring, original, perhaps uncomfortable minds who question accepted ideas and ways, and who are the source of most social reform. As new leaders and prophets appear, they will be none the worse for having read widely, and if they realize that people can honestly disagree on ideas of good and evil, and that their opponents may be sincere, then society may evolve less painfully than in the past. In our society, where technical progress, and the division of labour inseparable from it, has led to large social institutions such as the state, large industrial firms, trades unions, or even churches and sporting clubs whose leaders may be little known by their many rank-and-file members, the dignity and rights of the individual have recently been losing ground. The non-conformer, the one who does not think like the herd and whose ideals are different, enjoys little toleration from others. This discourages original thought and, in the long run, impoverishes society. The library can fight this creeping paralysis by offering a complete panorama of human ideas, not just those acceptable to the herd. Only by free unrestricted enquiry can the individual develop his personality fully. If some areas of knowledge are barred to him, his personality may be stunted, warped or lop-sided, and his mind will see everything through a distorting lens designed by those who restricted his development. Of course, this does not mean that the individual should defy society altogether—he must accept restrictions to live in society at all—but the supreme importance of the personalities of his readers and the vital need for their development should always be remembered by the librarian.

Another related function of the library is to act as a bridge, or link, between specialists. The scientist, ignorant of the arts, the humanities or even of sciences other than his own speciality, is often derided. Similarly, the artist and humanist, ignorant of the experimental method and the scientific attitude generally, is just as far from being a whole man as is the narrow scientist. The library can link the scientist with research outside his own field but, much more important, it can link arts, sciences and humanities into a view of the modern world superior to the one-sided aspect seen from any one of them alone,



and so foster the free, open society and enrich the lives of those who live within it.

We may now examine the roles of special, university, national and international, and local public libraries.

*Special libraries* serve groups of people who have combined for a specific purpose. For example, the industrial firm exists to make and sell a product in return for a profit, so the works library exists to further these aims. From the library comes a supply of information carefully directed to people within the firm whom it is hoped will be interested and helped by it. It may deal with the supply of labour, capital or raw materials, or describe new methods of production or new views in industrial psychology. It may describe new products which can be made with existing plant, or materials which may be adapted in order to supply or even create a new demand, or it may help the sales department with information on market conditions and economic trends in general. Thus the industrial library can reduce the waste of labour and materials in obsolete production methods by spreading the details of new methods to producers who may benefit by them. Another striking example of this process appears in the field of scientific research. So much research is now going on that much time and money may be spent on a piece of research only to find that other people have done it before. A search of the literature can save all this wasted effort, and free scientists' time for original work rather than unwittingly duplicating earlier work. When the library cannot carry out this function, the waste of resources can become enormous, e.g., during the development of nuclear devices separately in Britain, the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., national sovereignty has stopped the free exchange of information between the countries, so that progress has been retarded and resources wasted.

A professional body differs from a firm in its aims, since although its members usually practise for financial gain, they also recognize their moral obligation to benefit society by this practice. A professional library supports this aim by ensuring that all members shall know of professional developments and so make themselves as efficient and socially useful as possible. In an increasingly technical world the work is done by machines rather than men, who are left with more leisure on their hands. Numerous societies exist to serve people with interests in common, and many unlikely people have quietly become expert in subjects contrasting refreshingly with their gainful occupations, which are often unavoidably

dull. These groups help people to develop as individuals with likes, interests and fads determined, not by the need for earning a living, but by their own inclinations. We all know people like this. Dull, perhaps, in general conversation, but coming to life when their pet interest appears, and avid readers of anything written about it. Special libraries formed by these groups are greatly valued by their members, and in England especially, with its rich history of notable cranks and eccentrics, they should be encouraged, lest this genre should die out.

*University libraries* are supremely important in an industrial society. They have most of the functions outlined in the general discussion above, but to a greater degree, since the readers in these libraries will influence and shape society to an extent far out of proportion to their numerical strength in the population. The library is essential if they are to have a real education—not the mere cramming of set books—but specialist knowledge properly orientated in a wide and reasoned understanding of our history and culture in general. Censorship in a university library is a negation of its whole purpose, for these readers must be able to evaluate the recorded wisdom and foolishness of the world for themselves, without paternalistic guidance from political or other leaders.

*National and international (or world) libraries* have a special significance in a technical world, since micro-records allow them to collect and preserve economically a vast amount of little-used material, while modern tele-communications can make this material easily accessible to readers and to other libraries at a distance. In these libraries of last resort censorship is disastrous, since the needs of future scholars are unknown.

*Public libraries*, while they may serve the scholar, the scientist or the industrialist, are at root the libraries which the ordinary citizen has provided for himself. And so they should give him a general service of recorded knowledge, and an efficient means of access to any further recorded material he may need. Men are greatly influenced, and their characters affected, by their environment, as common observation obviously shows, but it is not always realized that the total environment includes the ideas which men encounter, and not just the physical world around. Two children may grow up in the same street, or even in the same family, but if one has read widely and the other has not, then the environments of the children will be very different. The public library must ensure that the total

environment of its readers is as full and rich as possible, so that they may live in the world of ideas and ideals as well as in their own physical surroundings, which are all too likely to be a nasty subtopia. The public library should be a place which offers written records without being a propaganda station. This aspect is becoming more important since television has become a major method of mass-communication. A T.V. programme allows no time for critical thought. Only a written record allows careful study at one's own pace, and comparison between its various parts. Again, the T.V. programme, being inordinately expensive to produce, is usually designed to please as many people as possible, and to give offence to as few as possible, which leads to stereotyped ideas, undue subservience to aggressive minority pressure groups, and often downright banality. As technology makes possible the mass-production of goods for ever larger mass markets, it is in the interest of the large firms concerned that people should be standardized in their demands. The advertisers would like us all to think alike where their products are concerned, and their persuasion may lead to a featureless uniformity of outlook. The library must be on the side of the individual against these forces, to help him keep his identity, for how can he give anything worthwhile to society unless he has something individual and unique to offer?

The public library can also help the citizen who wishes to know the general climate of thought in the arts and sciences, for unless he can grasp the attitude of thought in both spheres, his ideas of the world will be lame and askew. Here our old cliché of a 'balanced stock' exactly expresses our function of offering a balanced view of the world of ideas in general. Since the Renaissance the

scientific attitude has rid us of many superstitions. We must avoid a relapse into a fear of science and its potential destructive power by making available books which interpret this attitude. The public library can also form the ordinary citizen's means of access to the services of the special and great libraries. Only questions and requests which cannot be dealt with in the local library need pass to the latter, thus avoiding waste of their time and resources. In a technical world, the careers of more and more people will depend on access to the new ideas in their chosen field, which points to a special responsibility of the library to children. They must be shown how to use written records and where to find them, and given an idea of the enormous amount of information and recreation available. They should know that books are there to be used. If they do not, and they happen to enter a position of responsibility, they will probably be a liability rather than an asset to the community. In short, the public library should ensure that all may have the chance to enjoy the pleasures and uses of reading.

*Conclusion.* In an increasingly technical world, the library has a duty to give an efficient scientific and technical service, but it has an equal duty to make available the ideas of the arts and the humanities. A balance is essential. We must always remember that our readers are individuals—people, not a mass—and we must offer them a whole view of the world, not a blinkered or a squinting, distorted view. How we fulfil this role is a matter of library mechanics. The fundamental question is why we must fulfil it. If we keep the "why" foremost in our minds when deciding what to do, we can ensure that the library plays its proper role in a world which never needed it more.

## (2) A Defence of the Book against its Contemporary Rivals

By J. HARLEY, F.L.A., *Director, Paramus Free Public Library, Paramus, New Jersey, U.S.A.*

"EVERY man who knows how to read", says Aldous Huxley, "has it in his power to magnify himself, to multiply the ways in which he exists, to make his life full, significant and interesting". (1) There is no guarantee, on the other hand, that any man will exercise this power. He may be dissuaded or hindered from using it by the siren-like attractions of other things: "People in general", Boswell recorded Dr. Johnson as pronouncing, "do not willingly read, if they can have anything else to amuse them."

Neither is there any guarantee that the power will be exercised only with respect to good reading matter (however the good may be defined): it is not difficult for man to rationalize a desire to read matter forbidden or comparatively worthless. Again, the circumstances in which he finds himself may prevent a man from achieving the self-magnification Huxley grants him: how often have we put down a book because of our inability to concentrate, or the distraction of our surroundings.



Deterrents to the reading of books may be classed broadly under the headings thus indicated: hindrance, indolence, and circumstance. They have existed at all times. Before proceeding to a consideration of which contemporary deterrents provide what can be accurately termed rivalry, it may well prove that a clearer understanding of their nature is to be gained from a brief consideration of some historical deterrents. Let us look at the nineteenth century.

The morality and attitudes of a given period may deplore the habit of reading. ("What can thou be aiming at?" exclaimed Thomas Burt's Methodist visitor. "Thou won't joint the church; thou won't preach or address temperance meetings. What's the meaning of all this poring over books, this plodding search for knowledge that thou won't use?") (2). There is the lack of leisure for reading, or of suitable opportunities or congenial circumstances; there is the overwhelming pressure of the basic necessities of life. ("What the hell do we care about reading if we can get nought to eat?") (3). The price and scarcity of books, and poor lighting might operate to deter the prospective reader from exercising his power to make his life "full, significant and interesting", if his education and the lack of pleasure associated with reading had not already done so. ("The imagination is a terrible object of the dread, the hatred, and the hostility of the mistresses of establishments and the governesses of young ladies.") (4).

Some of these deterrents still have their effect, others are happily less effective. To them we should now have to add, among other things, the very plenitude of books, the pressures brought to bear upon the organization man, and the rapidity of travel. But it is plain that these things, while constituting deterrents to reading, are not active rivals, although they may serve the ends of rivals. What they do is to provide distractions to the ill-disciplined or lazy mind, or excuses for the evasion of the effort which reading undoubtedly entails. For this reason they are not irrelevant to our purpose; and this will be made more plain as we proceed.

It is necessary to distinguish between these things, or such of them as it may be agreed still operate, and those things which offer not only the delights of a pander's seduction, but the satisfaction of total consummation. It is not hard to count off a hand of typical rivals, of the "reading-machine bobbins and sound-track rolls" of the Brave New World: films, radio, television, recordings; even the proliferating cousin of the

book, the magazine, demanding little and offering less, tends more and more to join the list of rivals. There are others, of course, some less obvious but equally active in their rivalry, like the punched card or the electronic brain, which perform many of the functions of some books.

"Many of the functions of some books": this is a phrase which needs examination. "The book" is not an entity; there is the technical book, the children's picture book, the latest novel by Frank Yerby, the latest play by T. S. Eliot. (This very versatility might, indeed, be advanced against its rivals as a considerable argument in the book's favour).

Different classes of books have different contemporary rivals; and the question of rivalry is further complicated by the fact that rivalry often springs from a misunderstanding of the true nature and purpose of each medium of communication, expression, or preservation of knowledge and experience. Some rivals are at times complementary: it is a simple matter to instance the demonstration film which, far better than a written description, may show how an industrial process is carried out, while the printed word explains the logic behind the actions; or the television newsreel, which can present events with an immediacy that the book cannot equal, although the considered evaluation of events lies within the book's province.

It is impossible, with reasonable brevity, to consider adequately each rival of each kind of book; indeed, it would be impossible to be sure that one had listed all the rivals, or even recalled all the kinds of books with which a librarian is concerned.

Clearly, then, it is needful to enquire into the true nature and purpose of "the book", the ideal book which exists in some Platonic library, and which, beyond the common physical form of folded and gathered sheets of writing or printing, all other books resemble. What are its functions that no other medium can perform, whether the Platonic book manifests itself as a mathematical text or a popular entertainment, a children's classic or the record of an exploration? Indeed, is there such a function? Are we to subscribe to Professor Altick's prognostication that "the other so-called 'mass communication media' may in time render Gutenberg's invention wholly obsolete"? (5). Can we, apart from the winnings a parrot-like knowledge of Shakespeare or the Bible may produce on the \$64,000 Question, advance a sufficient argument to maintain the importance of the book in the modern world?

There are many arguments from which a case

might be built up. Not all of them are of very great value. Victorian writers were fond of reminding their audiences that reading has an almost unique advantage in that it can be indulged at any time and in any place; but this, we have noted indirectly, is only partially true. So is Macaulay's defence of the novel, that "it awakens the sympathies and softens the heart, excites the strongest veneration for all that is great, elevated, or virtuous, and the utmost detestation and disgust for the meanness and misery of vice" (6). The nineteenth century produced as well still less worthy arguments in those chatty homilies which bore such titles as "The Blessedness of Books".

But the nineteenth century was much nearer to something of importance in its innumerable anecdotes about the self-educated. That self-education is still a powerful argument may be judged by a comparison of the sales of series such as the Chandos Classics or Kent's Miniature Library with the titles bearing the ubiquitous present-day Penguin; and Victorian anecdotes of the self-educated reader might easily be matched today. Such anecdotes are pertinent, for education implies the development of the essential qualities in man's nature. They lead us towards a much stronger line of argument.

The argument here will take the following course. First it will be shown that the book contributes to the things in man's nature that make him unique among the inhabitants of the world; then that the book does this in a way which is unique.

Aristotle, and with him the Stoics and Epicureans, maintained long ago that man differs from other creatures by virtue of his ability to reason abstractly, and the higher development (for good or ill) of his intelligence. It is for this reason that man has chosen to name himself *homo*—and one might wish he had interpolated *interdum—sapiens*. To complete the foundation of our argument, it is also necessary to state the obvious, that the nature of man's intellectual development is such that no two individuals are the same: everyone develops in his own way and at his own pace. That, partially at any rate, is man.

Man's reason and intelligence set him apart from other animals, and are the essential parts of his nature. The book is a product of these essentials in man's nature; but it is not only a product, it contributes positively to it. Let us consider how. For the full development of his intelligence, man requires three things: a lot of information, the ability to perceive the relation-

ships between items of information, and the ability to make use of the two preceding requirements.

Among these three requirements, information stands as the first. Despite the growing amount of information available through other media, it is undeniable that the book still provides, and will in all likelihood continue to provide for a long time to come, more information than is to be found elsewhere. It is not inconceivable, however, that it will be superseded as a medium purely of recording information. Books are no longer the sole repository of knowledge; other media store it as effectively, and in some cases more effectively.

Sound recordings and moving pictures are obvious "other" methods of storing information; the question of whether a microcard of a book is still a book can happily be avoided here, as the course of the argument is hardly affected by it. It is pretty obvious, on the other hand, that a recorded speaking of a poem does not by any means retain the characteristics of the printed poem, while it acquires peculiar characteristics of its own.

It would be foolish to insist that books should continue to be used for ends better served by more recent methods of knowledge preservation; but the book still maintains a unique character in the preservation of knowledge or information.

This character is exhibited in several ways. The book lacks the human voice, which the film went to such pains to acquire, and which radio and other media have had from birth, but it allows a different kind of human contact: that contact which Robert Hutchins has characterized as "the great conversation" between book and book and between the read and the reader; while between the author and his "frère lecteur" exists, too, a far more personal contact. Few great men are in the world at any one time; our opportunities of meeting any of them are limited. But through books we are able to meet many and any of those who have lived throughout recorded history. We are enabled to listen to their ideas, and to take part in their discussions as they comment one upon the works of another. Books present to us everyday things seen through the eyes of greatness; they set before us the experience of mankind to assist us in the business of living. "All that Mankind has done, thought, gained, or been: it is lying as in magic preservation in the pages of Books" (7). It is a commonplace that books store knowledge and information, that they are the memory of the human race. Nevertheless

it is true. "The monument of vanished minds", Sir William Davenant said; "Gold of the dead, which time does still disperse, but not devour" (8).

The second requirement for the full development of man's intelligence is the ability to perceive the relationships between items of information. Equally, he needs the opportunity to perceive them. The book lacks the human voice, but the reader is not controlled by voice tempo or picture movement. The book is a patient teacher: it will repeat and repeat until we understand. The reader is offered the opportunity of a planned course of study, the chance of returning to any passage he may choose. "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed", as Bacon observed (9), but no other medium offers the chance of so full a development and prolongation; no other medium offers the indulgence in a leisurely pleasure in the order and beauty of the words and exposition.

These characteristics are well summed up by Erik Barnouw: "The printed page is the one medium in which the audience sets the tempo" (10). Because of this, the book demands a degree of participation and self-discipline which other media do not ask. Many people, because of inadequate training or for other reasons, find this demand great; but for the man who is prepared to undertake the effort of participation, such participation heightens the pleasure of reading. Time spent without a good deal of slow and thoughtful reading leads to a drying up of the brain. Discipline and sustained exercise is good for the mind, as it is for the body. For the healthy mind, just as it is for the healthy body, discipline and exercise is a welcome and necessary thing, ensuring man's full and vigorous development.

In this light, the relevance of the deterrents to reading with which we began becomes apparent. They are not rivals, but they serve the ends of rivals by providing distractions and excuses for the ill-disciplined or lazy mind. The book is for the thoughtful man; the man who wishes to achieve moral and political responsibility and technical control of his environment, by the exercise of his unique faculties of reason and intelligence; it is for the man who possesses the third of those requirements we listed as necessary to the full development of his nature.

Thus, we have been concerned to discover the tasks which can be performed by the book and nothing else. We have not examined the abilities of its rivals, or the extent to which they rival it. There is no need to do so, for we have decided to base our defence of the book solely on its unique qualities, and to show that they alone make it

worthy of a place of honour in the contemporary world.

The book is for the man who wishes to live, and to be enabled to live, the life of greatest good, the life of reason and awareness which will make him most truly himself. To serve such ends is surely no mean function; nor one which will or can be usurped by any contemporary rival. The book plays an unrivalled part in developing man's uniqueness, and thus becomes itself unique. "We were like foreigners, strangers wandering in our own city, when your books led us home and enabled us at last to recognize who we were and where we lived" (11).

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#### DIRECTORY OF METROPOLITAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES, 1956

A cumulative list of amendments has now been published for the above *Directory*. Copies of this Amendment List can be obtained from Mr. W. A. Taylor, M.C., F.L.A., Central Library, St. Pancras Town Hall, London, N.W.1, free of charge, on receipt of a S.A.E. (foolscap) and an indication of the number of copies required.

#### Esdaile Memorial Fund

A further appeal is made on behalf of the Esdaile Memorial Fund, instituted earlier this year.

Arundell Esdaile, who died on 22nd June, 1956, at the age of 76, was well known to the members of the English Association and of the Library Association, and was loved by all who had dealings with him. It is proposed that his memory should be kept alive by the endowment of an Esdaile Memorial Lecture which would be delivered from time to time on some literary or bibliographical subject. To make this possible, the English Association and the Library Association are sponsoring an appeal for funds.

Cheques (payable to the Library Association) should be sent to the Secretary, The Library Association, Chaucer House, Malet Place, London, W.C.1, and they will be most gratefully acknowledged.

# Libraries for Overspill Populations

By GWENDA JONES, B.A., F.L.A., *County Librarian of Buckinghamshire*

IT might appear, at first sight, that Middlesex, Hertfordshire, and Buckinghamshire must be facing quite different problems in dealing with their additional populations: Middlesex problems arise from *ad hoc* provision for unplanned suburban development; Hertfordshire problems arise from planned provision especially for planned New Towns; Buckinghamshire problems arise largely from planned provision for existing towns. In fact, however, many of Middlesex's problems due to lack of planning reappear in Hertfordshire's problems due to full and exact planning, and quite certainly both appear in Buckinghamshire.

Perhaps a more detailed survey of Buckinghamshire's particular difficulties may serve to illustrate some of the points which have emerged generally and, in particular, to deal with the overriding question involved wherever there is overspill population; that is, how to reconcile the needs of the new population with those of the existing population.

This is a serious problem in Buckinghamshire for some special reasons. The County's Branch Development Programme was late in getting under way and the service is now developing fast and demands for expansion are coming in embarrassingly quickly; moreover, the population of the County is increasing rapidly. But all this is happening at the most expensive and difficult time.

How, then, is one to reconcile the needs of the new and the old when both are urgently needing provision, and how are we to do it economically in the present financial framework and without compromising on standards and laying up trouble for the future?

There will be in the County three schemes to take overspill population by deliberate emigration from London and large-scale expansion of existing towns. These are at Slough, Aylesbury and Bletchley. There are two L.C.C. estates in Slough, one virtually complete, the other growing, it seems, with the speed of light. Aylesbury and Bletchley expansions are still in the stage of negotiation. Apart from this, a great spontaneous immigration has been taking place. Since 1931 the population has increased by about 50 per cent, and when full development under the County Development Plan is achieved by 1974, the increase will be over 100 per cent.

More details may give some measure of the scale and incidence of the problem. In 1921 the population of the library area was about 212,000; 10 years later it had increased to only 240,000. In 1939 at the peak of the war-time evacuation it was about 330,000 and this figure was maintained until, in 1950, the population reached 343,000. At that time the County Development Plan was being drafted and the ultimate library area population was forecast at 424,000 by 1971. A revised Development Plan is now nearing completion and this suggests that the County Library area will grow to some 460,000 by 1974, i.e., more than 100 per cent increase in 30 years.

In 1951 the County Library Sub-Committee adopted a Development Programme. This it has not so far been possible to put into full effect, owing to financial and other difficulties, but in the current year it is to be brought up to date and it is hoped will be adopted for immediate and continuing action. As just explained, 36,000 more population are to be provided for than in the first edition of the Programme but the increase is spread over 26 different towns in varying proportions. For instance, one town is to increase from 28,000 to 42,600, another from 14,000 to 24,000, another from 3,000 to 5,500, and yet another will decrease from 5,200 to 3,900. The numbers may not seem much in total, but each of these changes is sufficiently great proportionately to mean in its own measure a re-casting of the plans for the town's library provision.

Moreover, it is reasonably certain that even these figures will in some cases be exceeded and it is quite certain that one town has now decided, not to increase its total population, but to re-arrange it and to re-house nearly 5,000 of its existing population in yet another estate outside its present boundaries. And how is one to plan for this sort of case, where a large village of 1,800 population is officially planned to grow to 2,100, but where the local people are thinking in terms of an increase to 5,000? One is tempted to wonder where planning ends and one must obviously always be ready to re-cast plans for library provision which have already been made.

In dealing with this shifting scene, the first essential is to establish a Library Development Plan, and the core of this must be a formula to establish standards; that is, that for a given population, given standards of site, floor area,



hours of opening and so on are required. Once these are accepted, their application in individual cases becomes simpler.

The next important thing is to get a few prototype buildings in existence, and with the existing financial restrictions many authorities find it advisable to plan for a whole building but to erect it on the phase principle. It should in any case be agreed that no building should be established upon a site which does not allow for some future expansion and that every building should be designed so that any expansion can be made easily. But with this proviso it seems wise, where populations are reasonably small, to go all out for full provision in one place after another in order to avoid creating, through partial building, some of the dangers which admittedly exist in the provision of temporary accommodation.

In this way pressure of public opinion can work to the maximum—on the lines that, if "B" can have this provision, why cannot "A"? Moreover, there is no question of lowering standards of provision. In order to deal with the three-prolonged problem of overspill population, development of existing towns and lack of or inadequate provision in certain parts of the County, it is suggested that the building of permanent branch libraries might proceed in conjunction with an expansion programme based on temporary buildings of the sort which require no foundations, can be connected direct to existing services, and can be moved and re-erected in a day, and by the use of mobile libraries in housing estates.

The use of portable temporary branches should avoid the danger which attends most temporary buildings, that some capital has been invested and it is, therefore, extremely difficult to discard that commitment, so that the temporary becomes virtually permanent.

Experience in the County suggests that at the present time the service cannot afford to make temporary provision except on the assurance that this can, and will be, superseded at an early stage. A mobile library service recently established as an interim measure to serve overspill estates and borough estates in a rapidly-growing town was, within 5 months of its inauguration, almost overwhelmed, and it is already clear that branch provision should be accelerated. The response to new branch services, coinciding as it has done with a long-awaited improvement in bookstock provision, has also reached a high level with exceptional speed, and existing services established over the last 10 years in adapted and, therefore, inadequate buildings are without

exception strained to their limits and beyond, and need early replacement.

The County is obviously facing a large and urgent problem and some means must be devised of achieving widespread provision within a modest annual capital investment programme. A possible way of tackling the problem is by an initial investment in two portable temporary buildings and a second urban mobile library, plus a programme for the building of permanent branches. This would make it possible to provide 2-3 new branch services every year. Places granted temporary provision in this scheme would not lose their priority in the permanent building programme, and as new buildings were completed, the temporary buildings and the mobile library would move on to provide new services which, in turn, would be superseded by permanent buildings.

In this way it would seem possible to expand branch provision at double the speed of a programme based solely on the provision of permanent buildings, and without leaving behind a succession of inadequate services which cannot be discarded because they exist and represent a certain capital investment, and which are only creating new problems which will have to be dealt with in their turn—and this, according to experience, is likely to be later rather than sooner.

This system would inevitably involve problems of organization, but they can be solved and it seems to offer a way of approaching the difficulties of providing not only for overspill populations but also for the normal problem of catching up with library provision in abnormal times.

#### Technical College Librarians Group

The following name to be added to the list which appeared in the October RECORD (page 319):

North Western Polytechnic: E. J. Ellis, A.L.A.

#### LA/NYLA Exchange Scheme

The following post is offered by Brooklyn P.L. to any suitably experienced Chartered Librarian in a public library in or near London, willing to exchange posts for one year with a young qualified negro.

Assistant librarian to perform adult reference and lending duties, reviewing and selection of books. Annual salary \$4,000 p.a. Opportunities would be given to obtain a good general background of public librarianship in a large library service.

British applicants' salary should not be less than £700 p.a. Application forms from the Secretary of The Library Association. Chartered Librarians in U.K. are reminded that they may offer themselves for an exchange under this Scheme at any time.

## The Beards of Thistle

By PAUL CASIMIR, A.L.A., *Swindon Public Libraries*

IT is no new statement that public libraries, more frequently than not, fall behind minimum standards of book provision. Minimum standards are in the air today and we are likely perhaps to see changes for the better in the near future. One of the changes much advocated today in what after all is the basis of a good library—its book-stock—is the provision of more technical books in both reference and lending departments. Presuming that our civilization has opted for technical advancement, this provision is logical enough. If we are to move forward faster in all directions, let it at least be on well-oiled wheels. The provision of up-to-date technical books in sufficient copies to meet all demands should become part of the policy of public lending libraries—unless the technical college next door is doing this already. Today there are signs that many technical colleges are increasing their stocks of technical books and nothing would be more lamentable than two institutions attempting the same thing. In a country so disinclined to co-operation as Britain, this is not unlikely. Reference departments—so frequently the dumping ground for “ancient tomes”—need to look into the provision of technical and scientific literature, though here the case for duplication is not valid. Reference departments today cannot remain mainly humanistic in their “book bias” or consider the provision of commercial information from the quick-reference shelves as their chief aim. Students, in these days of small and overcrowded homes, could by the provision of the right books be encouraged to use the public reference library more perhaps than they do. Also, we must provide that which other services like television and radio are not offering; one of these services is up-to-date technical information. It is, after all, no good having a god and starving him of sacrifice. Otherwise he will bless the sputniks of those who burn the fattest calf before his nostrils. For a technical age that is not technical enough is doomed to failure—the technical Icarus cannot go too near the sun.

Every solution, however, only poses a new problem, and the problem of the technical age is that of preserving and extending its humanity. It is to this problem that the public library has so singularly failed to provide an answer. For we, in public libraries, too rarely discuss the aims for which book provision should work. We may, if we like, smile at the idealism of many librarians

in the early days of the service, who saw the betterment of mankind as their aim, but how many contemporary librarians have an aim at all? The need to keep public libraries up to date, to provide technical information on a lavish scale is advocated here, but to do so without a clear aim in view would be empirical to a degree. After all, we are in danger of substituting the scaffolding for the house, of seeing better technology and its application in this country as an aim in itself. The stem carries the flower and the age of technical advancement should see itself in the nature of a stem with the resulting flower yet unborn. For if a technical age is to make people more free of drudgery than previously, healthier and cleaner, the better able to enjoy more aspects of life (as, for example, faster travel can do), it is necessary to keep alive the human curiosity in all the manifestations of life. So a programme of better technical book provision should go forward along with the encouragement by the public library of all that is enriching of the human spirit, the natural sciences as well as the arts. To achieve this twofold purpose, it is necessary to provide an aim to public library provision lacking in the profession today. Yet this aim should not be difficult to formulate if we believe that ultimately reading can have one aim only—the enrichment of life and that the encouragement of the imaginative faculty is the way to achieve this richness.

That such a wealth is needed today can be demonstrated. We may deplore as escapist the interest in archaeology but we cannot deny the value of an imaginative delving into Ancient Troy or Roman Britain. Deep-sea-diving, flying saucers, the Kon-Tiki expedition, are three immediate examples of subjects immensely popular yet stimulating to the imagination. The function of the public library, in an ever more technical age, should be to deepen this interest and ultimately demonstrate that the barrier between science and the arts is an unreal one. When the student of technology turns for refreshment to Breughel, then only can the planners of public library policy begin to feel a little pleased with themselves. For then the stem will be giving place to the flower and human curiosity be alive. For even if we all cannot become “monuments of curiosity”, we can, like Coleridge, see “the beards of thistles and dandelions flying about the lonely mountains like life”.



## Photo-punch Charging

By T. E. CALLANDER, F.L.A., *Chief Librarian of Croydon*

SINCE November, 1956, book charging at the Central Lending Library, Croydon, has been done by a method which combines the use of a microfilm camera with Powers-Samas punched cards. The method, so far as the camera goes, is straight photo-charging as E. V. Corbett has described it; the Croydon system differs in that it mechanizes the production and handling of transaction cards.

Croydon transaction cards are standard P.S. 40-column cards, carrying no printing other than the all-over pattern of punch positions. They are used in a series of stock colour patterns, so that a week's transaction cards can be distinguished at sight from those issued in any other week.

To operate the system, a set of transaction cards large enough to cover the anticipated week's loan is prepared. These cards are punched, in serial order from 1 to, say, 11,000, and each set used is produced by mechanical reproduction from a pre-punched master set. (A fresh set of cards is used each week and no attempt is made to re-use a set.) Before use, cards are pre-dated with the date of return by hand-stamping with a king-size rubber stamp.

Punched transaction cards are issued and photographed exactly as are normal un-punched cards. When removed from returned books, they are sorted to week of issue by their distinctive colours, the colour-sort being checked by inspection of the week-number punched in each card. By this check a mis-sort is immediately detected.

When it becomes necessary to send overdue notices, the returned cards issued in the week which is under scrutiny are processed as follows:

- (i) The whole batch of returned cards is mechanically sorted to serial number order.
- (ii) The returned-card batch is mechanically compared with a complete pack by a Powers Interpolator.
- (iii) The Interpolator throws out a punched card bearing the serial number of each card missing from the returned pack.
- (iv) The cards produced by the Interpolator are tabulated mechanically to produce a "typewritten" list of overdue transaction numbers.

With the production of the overdue numbers list, the method goes back to standard photo-charging procedure for the writing of overdue notices. At Croydon, overdue notices are written in triplicate, and second and third notices are discarded if not wanted. The cost of paper wasted is, of course, very much less than would be the cost of staff time spent in writing second and third notices as separate tasks.

The sequence of machine operations listed above is carried out by one operator who controls the three machines—sorter, interpolator and tabulator—which are worked simultaneously.

The following table gives the timing of the machine operation recorded in four consecutive weeks in February, 1958:

Week No.	Issue	No. of overdue numbers	Time taken
60	11,865	401	2 hrs. 45 min.
61	11,019	370	2 hrs. 45 min.
62	11,403	437	2 hrs. 50 min.
63	11,127	367	1 hr. 40 min.

The advantage claimed for the method described here is, of course, speed. As the table shows, one assistant can produce the overdue list for an issue of 11,000 plus in under three hours. (It is hoped that other librarians, using photo-charging with manual or other systems of handling transaction cards, will be persuaded to publish comparable data for their methods.) Apart from being economical of staff time, the method has the satisfying effect of turning over what has always, with any charging system, been a large slab of tedious routine to machines.

At Croydon, the Powers machines used for handling transaction cards are part of the Borough Treasurer's installation. The library operation is carried out by a member of the library staff who has been trained as a Powers operator. It is not likely that it would be economic to install Powers machines in a library, since the handling of transaction cards arising from an annual loan of 2,000,000 books would not take more than 12 hours' machine time in one week.

### Interavailability of Readers' Tickets

We understand that the Radnorshire County Library will now accept on a reciprocal basis the tickets of visitors to the County who are registered readers of other public libraries.

## Bibliographical Tools in the Small Library

At the meeting of the North-Western Branch of the Library Association on 15th May, 1958, at Bacup the allegation was made that the small library was deficient in bibliographical tools and accordingly was in no position to offer the necessary assistance to readers that it ought.

Far too often small libraries are condemned because of the unfortunate failings of a few, and this appeared to me to be another instance of a generalization based on faulty information. In order to clarify the matter, I circulated a questionnaire based upon a list of bibliographical tools recommended by the N.C.L. for dealing with regional bureau applications. The questionnaire went out to some 246 libraries serving populations from about 50,000 downwards and 192 replies were received.

The following information has been extracted from the returns.

(1) **British national bibliography.** 1950. Council of the British National Bibliography. J. Whitaker & Sons, Ltd., Full Service, £24 p.a.

Of the 192 replies received, 171 state that the libraries concerned subscribe to the *B.N.B.* Of the 21 which do not subscribe to the *B.N.B.*:

- 7 serve populations between 5,000-9,999.
- 9 serve populations between 10,000-14,999.
- 2 serve populations between 15,000-19,999.
- 3 serve populations between 20,000-24,999.

Of the 54 which did not reply, the *B.N.B.* states that 26 are subscribers.

(2) **Cumulative book index.** 1928. New York, Wilson. Charged on a sliding scale.

Only 34 libraries are subscribers to the *C.B.I.* while another 14 have parts. Of the subscribers:

- 4 are in the 10,000-19,999 population group.
- 6 are in the 20,000-29,999 population group.
- 11 are in the 30,000-39,999 population group.
- 13 are in the over 40,000 population group.

(3) **Whitaker's cumulative book list.** Annually 27s. 6d. with cumulations, various prices.

113 libraries still take Whitaker's *C.B.L.* in addition to the *B.N.B.*, while 35 libraries which used to take it ceased to subscribe round about 1950.

(4) **English catalogue of books.** Publishers' Circular, Ltd., annually with cumulations. The following parts are in print: 1931-5, £7 10s.;

1936-41, £8 8s.; 1942-7, £7 10s.; 1948-51, £9 9s.; 1952, 30s.; 1953, 25s.; 1954, 40s.

Only 31 libraries now subscribe to the *English catalogue of books*. Its popularity as a bibliographical tool has been more adversely affected by the appearance of the *B.N.B.* than has Whitaker's *Cumulative book list*. The returns indicate that, in addition to the 31 libraries which currently subscribe to the *English catalogue*, 61 have runs of varying lengths.

### (5) Periodicals

The relative popularity of Whitaker's *Cumulative book list* and the *English catalogue* is mirrored by their weekly counterparts, 140 libraries taking the *Bookseller* and 28 the *Publishers' circular*, while 186 subscribe to the *Times literary supplement*. 21 libraries will take all three periodicals.

(6) **British Museum Subject Index** of the Modern works added to the Library. 1881-1900, 3 v., 90s.; 1901-5, OP; 1906-10, OP; 1911-5, OP, 1914-20 (war) OP, 1916-20, OP., 1921-5, £5 5s. 1926-30, £5 5s.; 1931-5, 2 v. £6; 1936-40, 2 v. £15 15s.; 1941-5, £8.

42 libraries possess sets of the B.M.S.I. either in full or in part but at least 18 of these are not up to date. Apparently the value of the B.M.S.I. as a tool for dealing with subject requests is not as well realized as it might be.

(7) **London Library catalogue.** 2 v. 1913-1914 O.P. Supplements 1913-20, 63s.; 1920-8, £5; 1928-50, £12.

Thirty libraries possess copies of the *London Library catalogue* and/or supplements.

The distribution of these libraries is as follows:

10,000-19,999	..	..	..	3
20,000-29,999	..	..	..	6
30,000-39,999	..	..	..	10
Over 40,000	..	..	..	11

(8) **Cambridge bibliography of English literature.** 4 v. C.U.P., 1940. £9. Vol. 5. Suppt. 70s.

96 libraries have sets of the *Cambridge bibliography of English literature*.

(9) **Willing's press guide.** Willing, 21s. p.a.

161 libraries have current or recent copies of *Willing's press guide*.

(10) **Consolidated list of parliamentary and Stationery Office publications.** 1923—H.M.S.O. 1s. p.a.

47 libraries keep the annual volumes while a further 6 file the monthly lists.

(11) *Union catalogue of the periodical publications in the university libraries of the British Isles*. N.C.L. 1937, 52s. 6d.

Only three libraries report having copies of this.

(12) *British union-catalogue of periodicals*. Vol. 1. 1955. Vols. 2-4 announced for publication 1956-7.

20 have copies of *BUCOP*.

1	..	..	..	..	10,000-19,999
2	..	..	..	..	20,000-29,999
7	..	..	..	..	30,000-39,999
10	..	..	..	..	over 40,000

(13) *World list of scientific periodicals*. Published in the years 1900-1950. 3rd ed. Butterworth, 1952. £12.

Copies of the *World list of scientific periodicals* are restricted to the larger libraries; 9 in the group over 40,000 and 5 in the group between 30,000 and 39,999. One library in the 10,000-19,999 group has an early edition.

(14) *Dictionary of national biography*. 22v. Smith, Elder, 1908-9. 2nd-5th Supplements, 1901-1940. O.U.P., 1912-49. £60 (Complete).

131 libraries report having full sets of the *D.N.B.* while a further 27 have the concise *D.N.B.*

(15) *Grove's dictionary of music and musicians*. 5th ed. 9 v. Macmillan, 1954. £36.

144 libraries have sets of the above varying from the 1st to the 5th.

(16) *Lewis, H. K. and Co. Ltd. Catalogue of Lewis's Medical, Scientific and Technical Lending Library*. H. K. Lewis, 1949 35s. Supplement 1950-2, 6s.

47 libraries have copies of the above, while 4 report holdings of the 1956 edition.

(17) *London Library. Subject Index*, of the London Library, Williams & Norgate, 1909, O.P. Additions 1909-22. William & Norgate, 80s.; additions 1923-38, Williams & Norgate, £5; additions 1938-53, Quaritch, £9 9s.

27 libraries have copies of the above.

(18) *Sonnenschein, W. S. Best books*, 3rd ed. 6 v. Routledge, 1910-35. O.P. except v. 2, 4 and 5. 64s.

76 libraries have sets of Sonnenschein.

(19) *Where to look for your law*. 11th ed. Sweet and Maxwell, 1954. 7s. 6d.

45 libraries have copies of the above, and 1 a copy of the 1957 edition.

(20) *Whitaker's reference catalogue of current literature*. 2 v., Whitaker, 1951, £10 10s. (And earlier vols.)

Libraries hold copies of editions of the *Reference catalogue* for the following dates:

1936	..	..	..	85
1938	..	..	..	92
1940	..	..	..	66
1951	..	..	..	123
1957	..	..	..	125

Comparison of the returns shows that 98 libraries possess copies of both the 1951 and 1957 editions, while 25 libraries have copies only of the 1951 edition, and 27 libraries have copies only of the 1957 edition.

D. HAY

## Jubilee of the Netherlands Association for Public Libraries

The 29th annual libraries congress organized jointly by the Netherlands Union of Librarians and the Netherlands Association for Public Libraries, which was held in The Hague in June last, marked the 50th anniversary of the latter body, and a special programme was organized to celebrate the occasion. The sessions included an address by Mr. Lionel R. McColvin, City Librarian of Westminster, on *The chance to read* and, in the children's library section, Miss E. Colwell, Children's Librarian at Hendon, gave a talk on Eleanor Farjeon. Delegates of other library associations attended from Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Norway and Sweden, and the Library Association of Great Britain was officially represented by Mr. W. B. Paton, Hon. Secretary, and Mr. F. G. B. Hutchings, Hon. Treasurer. The meetings were held in a hall in the Binnenhof, venerable centre of the Dutch government, and a reception to the delegates was accorded by the Mayor and Corporation in the town hall of The Hague.

At the Anniversary Meeting to mark the Jubilee, the congratulations and good wishes of the Library Association were voiced by Mr. Paton, Hon. Secretary, who remarked that he had just come from Edinburgh, the capital city of Scotland, after taking part in the Jubilee Conference of the Scottish Library Association, to The Hague, seat of the Government of Holland, to



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Mr. W. B. Paton, Hon. Secretary, hands over to Mr. A. F. Schepel, President of the Netherlands Association for Public Libraries, a copy of the Library Association Library Catalogue. Looking on is Mr. P. J. Van Swigchem, Director of The Hague Public Library.

join in the Jubilee celebrations of the Netherlands Association for Public Libraries—a happy coincidence, and the explanation of the fact that in honour of both occasions he was wearing the kilt. In expressing the good wishes of the Library Association, Mr. Paton acknowledged the friendly welcome and generous hospitality accorded on all sides, and characterized the library profession as a passport to friendship, a freemasonry which needed no secret signs. He quoted a resolution of the Library Association Council conveying their fraternal greetings to the Netherlands Association for Public Libraries, their congratulations on the achievements of the past fifty years, and their best wishes for the future welfare and development of the public library movement in Holland and for the success of the Netherlands Association for Public Libraries in bringing this about. To mark the occasion, he handed over to Mr. A. F. Schepel, President of the Association, a presentation copy of the recently published catalogue of the Library Association Library, suggesting that it might be given accession number 1 in a new collection of professional literature to be formed

by the Netherlands Association for Public Libraries.

The arrangements for the conference were meticulously planned, and its success owed much to the gracious and untiring efficiency of the organizing Secretary, Miss M. Wijnstroom. Particularly memorable were the Festive Dinner (most appropriately named), the cabaret organized and presented by members of Dutch library staffs, and the reception by the management committee of the Netherlands Association for Public Libraries.

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#### ANGLO-SCANDINAVIAN CONFERENCE

A limited number of copies of the report of the Second Anglo-Scandinavian Regional Conference on Public Libraries, held in York, 29th July-1st August, 1958, are available free to members on request to the Secretary.



# The Library Association

## Library Association Council

### Notices of Bye-elections for Branch Councillors

The appointment to Tasmania of Mr. B. W. Wray, F.L.A., creates a vacancy on the Library Association Council for a Branch Councillor for the NORTH MIDLAND BRANCH and the Council has resolved to hold a bye-election to fill this vacancy for the remainder of the term (December, 1959).

Nominations signed by two members of the Branch in good standing must reach the Secretary of the Library Association by the first post on Thursday, 4th December. If there is more than one nomination, voting papers will be posted to qualified voters in the Branch on Friday, 19th December, for return by 5th January, 1959. If a qualified voter does not receive his voting paper, he must apply for one by the 29th December as, after that date, no voting paper will be issued. Counting of votes to take place at Chaucer House, 6th January, 1959, at 2 p.m.

The appointment to West Riding of Mr. W. J. Murison, F.L.A., creates a vacancy on the Library Association Council for a Branch Councillor for the NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH and the Council has resolved to hold a bye-election to fill this vacancy for the remainder of the term (December, 1959).

Nominations signed by two members of the Branch in good standing must reach the Secretary of the Library Association by the first post on Thursday, 4th December. If there is more than one nomination, voting papers will be posted to qualified voters in the Branch on Friday, 19th December, for return by 5th January, 1959. If a qualified voter does not receive his voting paper, he must apply for one by the 29th December as, after that date, no voting paper will be issued. Counting of votes to take place at Chaucer House on 6th January, 1959, at 2 p.m.

### Examination Results—Summer, 1958

The following name should be added to the Pass List under Registration, Group D:

Van de Wateren, Mrs. J. I., Mildura P.L., Victoria, Australia.

and under Group B:

Roy, Miss A., Ramkrish Institute, Calcutta.

### Examiners

Appointments of Examiners are to be made as set out below. Applicants for either of them should give some account of their careers, mentioning any teaching experience, and give the names of two referees. Examiners are required to give an undertaking that they will not give tuition, either oral or by correspondence, for the examination which they mark. Applications should reach the Secretary by 13th December, 1958.

(1) Senior Examiner in Final, Part 3(a)(iii), Literature and librarianship of special subjects; English literature, 1660-1780.

(2) Senior Examiner in Final, Part 1, Bibliography and book selection.

### Cambridge Overseas School Certificate

In order to make the position quite clear to holders of the above, these certificates are acceptable as pre-entry educational qualifications as follows:

- (1) First Division Certificate.
- (2) Second Division Certificate, provided that it contains a Credit in English Language.
- (3) Third Division Certificate only when it contains five Credits, including English Language.

## Income Tax Relief on Subscriptions

The Commissioners of Inland Revenue have approved The Library Association for the purposes of Section 16, Finance Act, 1958, and the whole of the annual subscription paid by a member who qualifies for relief under that Section will be allowable as a deduction from his emoluments assessable to income tax under Schedule E.

Commencing with the year to 5th April, 1959, a member who is an office holder or employee is entitled to a deduction from the amount of his emoluments assessable to income tax under Schedule E of the whole of his annual subscription to the Association *provided that*:

- (a) the subscription is defrayed out of the emoluments of the office or employment, *and*,
- (b) the activities of the Association so far as they are directed to all or any of the following objects:
  - (i) the advancement or spreading of knowledge (whether generally or among persons belonging to the same or similar professions or occupying the same or similar positions);
  - (ii) the maintenance or improvement of standards of conduct and competence among the members of any profession;
  - (iii) the indemnification or protection of members of any profession against claims in respect of liabilities incurred by them in the exercise of their profession;

are relevant to the office or employment, that is to say the performance of the duties of the office or employment is directly affected by the knowledge concerned or involves the exercise of the profession concerned.

A member of the Association who is entitled to the relief should apply to his tax office as soon as possible for form P358 on which to make a claim for adjustment of his pay-as-you-earn coding.

## The L.A. Prize Essay, 1959

The following subjects have been chosen by the L.A. Council for a Prize Essay Competition, instituted in 1954.

1. A plea for a less parochial attitude towards librarianship.

2. "Public libraries are used by a minority, by less than a quarter of the population; and the books they supply are mainly for recreational reading and not for education purposes. When this wide-spread system of public patronage was instituted, over a century ago, it was designed in large measure to combat illiteracy, but in our time it continues as an amenity wholly provided at public expense."—Arts Council Report, 1957-58.

3. Personal contacts between readers and librarians, and their making and maintenance in an age of mechanization in libraries.

### RULES FOR THE COMPETITION

1. The prize offered by the Library Association is £10. The right to compete is limited to L.A. members. The decision of the Library Association as to eligibility shall be final.

2. The essays submitted must not exceed 3,000 words in length, or be less than 2,500 words: they must be typewritten and submitted in quadruplicate.

3. The authorship of the essays must be strictly anonymous. Each competitor must assume a pen-name and enclose with his essay a sealed envelope with his pen-name typewritten on the outside and his name and address inside.

4. Adequate bibliographical references should be given to any published or unpublished work cited or otherwise used in the essay.

5. The essays, which are to be addressed to the Editor of the LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD and marked "Prize Essay, 1959" on the envelope, must reach Chaucer House not later than the 15th July, 1959.

6. The Essays received will be judged by at least three referees, who are to be appointed by the Council of the Library Association. The decision of the referees, or of a majority of them, shall be final.

7. If, in the opinion of the referees, or of a majority of them, no essay submitted to them comes up to a sufficiently high standard of excellence, the referees are empowered not to award the prize; or they may, if they consider it desirable, divide the prize among two or more of the competitors.

8. The result of the competition will be made known in the RECORD in September, 1959, if possible, and the prize essay will be published in the following number of the RECORD. In the event, however, of there being two or more prize essays, the Editor of the RECORD reserves the right of

deciding which of these essays he will publish.

9. The copyright of any essay which appears in the LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD belongs to the Library Association.

10. The Library Association and the Editor of the RECORD are not to be held responsible for the loss or return of any essay submitted for the competition; nor do they incur any liability whatever in connection with the receipt of essays, any dealings therewith, the judging thereof, or the report thereon.

### Register of Chartered Librarians

At the October, 1958, Council meeting 26 Fellows and 133 Associates were elected to the Register as follows:

*Fellows:* Allardyce, A. (1958), National Central Library; Anuar, H. (Mrs.), B.A. (1958), Malaya Univ. L.; Bakewell, K.G.B. (1958), English Electric Co. Ltd.; Bell, T. I. (1958), Royal Aircraft Establishment L.; Bickie, C. H. W. (Miss), B.A. (1958), Chartered Insurance Institute L.; Bramley, G. A. J. (1958), Nottingham P.L.; Bryant, D. J. (1958), Bristol P.L.; Curnow, E. A. (Miss), B.A. (1956), Norwood Technical College L.; Foskett, A. C. (1958), Atomic Energy Research Establishment L.; Gibson, K. L., B.A. (1958), Orpington P.L.; Hargreaves, J. A. (1958), Reading P.L.; Harrison, M. E. (Miss) (1958), Solihull P.L.; Harrop, D. (Miss) (1958), Manchester P.L.; Hartley, C. M. (1958), Lancs. Co.L.; Kahn, A. M. C. (Miss), B. A. (1958), Ministry of Housing and Local Government L.; Moon, B. E. (Miss) M.A. (1957), Sheffield Univ. L.; Moss, W. R., B.A. (1958), G.E.C. Ltd. L.; Needham, C. D. (1958), Kent Co.L.; Nicholson, J. M. (Miss) (1958), Upper Norwood Joint L.; Pocklington, P. D. (1958), Chelmsford P.L.; Roe, J. (1958), Nottingham P.L.; Scott, N. D. (1958), Exeter P.L.; Sexton, B. C., B.A. (1958), Liverpool P.L.; Watson, W. M. (1958), Newcastle upon Tyne P.L.; Wood, A. J. (1957), U.K. Atomic Energy Authority L.; Wright, P. K. J. (1958), Middlesex Co.L.

*Associates:* Aitken, J. W. (Miss) (1958), Essex Co.L.; Antrobus, B. H. (1958), Manchester P.L.; Aramide, O. (1958), Univ. College L., Ibadan; Averill, J. R. (Miss) (1958), B.B.C. Reference L.; Axford, W. A. (Mrs.), M.A. (1958), Birmingham Univ. Institute of Education L.; Bailey, W. (1958), Lancs. Co.L.; Ball, G. R. (1958), Newark P.L.; Balmforth, C. K., B.A. (1958), Liverpool Univ. L.; Bate, D. (1958), Bradford P.L.; Beard, D. R. (1958), Stoke-on-Trent P.L.; Birchall, W. L. (Miss), A.R.M.C.M. (1958), Manchester P.L.; Bladon, K. J. (1956), Derby P.L.; Blizzard, F. H. (Miss) (1958), Trinidad Cent. L.; Blyth, B. E. M. (Miss) (1958), Durham Co.L.; Bogan, E. E. B. (Miss) (1958), International Wool Secretariat L.; Bolsom, N. R. (Miss) (1957), Metal Box Co. Research Dept.; Brimelow, T. (1958), Wigan P.L.; Brook, J. C. (Miss), B.A. (1956), Stratford-upon-Avon P.L.; Brown, B. (Miss) (1958), York P.L.; Buchanan, D. S., M.A. (1958), British Council Home L.; Buckie, J. M. (Miss), B.A. (1956), Dounreay Experimental Reactor Est. L.; Burns, S. (Miss), B.A. (1957), Westminster P.L.; Byham, J. M. (Mrs.) (1958), Regent St. Polytechnic L.; Cave, D. (Miss) (1957), Bucks Co.L.; Cave, R. G. J. M. (1957), British Iron and Steel Res. Ass. L.; Christie, D. (1958), Edinburgh Univ. L.; Clark, J. (Miss), B.A. (1958), Essex Co.L.; Clarke, D. E.



1958), British United Shoe Machinery Co.L.; Clarke, J. E. (1958), Hammersmith P.L.; Cockayne, R. A. C. (1958), Ipswich P.L.; Coleman, S. E. (Miss) (1958), Bradford P.L.; Corney, C. P. B.Litt., M.A. (1958), London University L.; Cox, D. E. (1958), Hendon P.L.; Critchley, M. H. (Miss) (1956), Shipley P.L.; Croghan, A. (1958), Science Museum L.; Dann, M.P. (Miss) (1956), Staffs. Co.L.; Darbyshire, J. B. (1958), Preston P.L.; Day, R. J. (Miss) (1958), Worktop P.L.; Deal, M. F. (Miss) (1956), Bethnal Green P.L.; Deere-Jones, P. A. (Miss), B.A. (1958), London Univ. Instit. of Educ. L.; Dendy, J. W. (1958), Hendon P.L.; Despard, H. W., B.A. (1958), Reigate P.L.; Dobb, C., B.Litt., M.A. (1958), London Univ. L.; Durey, P. B., B.A. (1956), Reading Univ. L.; Ellis, C. O. (1958), Liverpool P.L.; Fellows, C. J. (1958), Camberwell P.L.; Ford, A. W. (Miss) (1958), Essex Co.L.; Gadsden, S. R. (1956), Willesden P.L.; Godman, S. (Miss) (1958), Plymouth P.L.; Godsall, P. M. (Miss) (1956), Solihull P.L.; Goodall, N. (1958), Crewe P.L.; Hamilton, G. E. (1958), Ipswich P.L.; Hargrave, L. R. (1958), Somerset Co.L.; Hazelden, E. E. (Miss) (1958), Islington P.L.; Heaslip, M. (Miss) (1958), Bristol P.L.; Heath, A. J., B.A. (1958), Manchester P.L.; Heywood, S. P. Mrs. (1958), Wednesbury P.L.; Hinchcliffe, P. (1958), Cambridge P.L.; Hodsoll, V. M. Miss (1958), Eastbourne P.L.; Hollman, F. T. (1958), British Cast Iron Research Ass.L.; Holt, W. A., M.A. (1958), Staffs Co.L.; Hoptrough, H. S. (1958), Cumberland Co.L.; Houghton, S. P. (Miss) (1958), Sale P.L.; Howe, M. L. (Miss), B.A. (1958), Manchester P.L.; Inger, D. (1958), Chesterfield P.L.; Jamieson, I. M. (1958), Newcastle upon Tyne P.L.; John, A. A. (Miss) (1956), Trinidad Central L.; Keech, R. E. (Miss) B.A. (1958), Northampton College L.; Kennard, D. J., B.A. (1958), Nottingham P.L.; Kumar, S. (Mrs.), M.A., Ph.D. (1958), British Council L.; Madras; Lawrence, P. A. (Miss) (1957), Kensington P.L.; Lee, J. (1958), Kensington P.L.; Littlewood P. B. (1958), Rotherham P.L.; Lucas, M. C. (Mrs.), Chester P.L.; McCartney, E. K. (Miss) (1958), Inst. of Electrical Engineers L.; McColl, G. M. (Miss), M.A. (1955), Woodside Senior Secondary School L.; Macphie, H. J. G. (Miss) (1958), Kendal and Westmorland Co.L.; Maddock, S. M. (Mrs.), B.A. (1958), Birmingham College of Art L.; Mann, M. A. (Miss) (1955), Manchester P.L.; Meakin, A. O. (1957), Salford P.L.; Mears, J. C. (Miss) (1958), Westminster P.L.; Menzies, W. N., M.A. (1957), Commonwealth National L., Canberra; Metcalf, W. M. (Miss) (1958), Coventry P.L.; Middleton, J. (1958), Liverpool P.L.; Miller, J. A. (1958), Blackburn P.L.; Miller, M. H. (Miss) (1958), Edinburgh Univ. L.; Milne, S. (Mrs.) (1957), previously Rochdale P.L.; Mitter, B. (Mrs.), B.A. (1958), Middlesex Co.L.; Moore, H. (1958), Redcar P.L.; Moore, M. A., M.A. (1958), previously Edinburgh P.L.; Morton, C. R. (Miss) (1958), Herts Co. L.; Neave, E. M. (Miss) (1958), Hockerill Training College L.; Nightingale, J. (1958), Essex Co.L.; Nwoye, S. C., B.A. (1958), Univ. L., Ibadan; Parker, J. S. (1957), West Riding Co.L.; Patrick, S. A. (Miss), B.A. (1956), Liverpool Univ. L.; Pentelow, G. M. (Miss) (1958), St. Mary's Hospital Medical School L.; Petrie, K. M. (Miss) (1958), Herts. Co.L.; Plumb, A. M. N. (Miss), B.A. (1957), L.C.C. Education Service; Poppy, P. M. (Miss) (1958), Birmingham P.L.; Razaque, M. A., M.A. (1958), Liverpool P.L.; Reynolds, B. (Mrs.), B.A. (1957), Bedford College L.; Roberts, E. A. (Miss) (1957), Finchley P.L.; Rochford, R. E. (Miss) (1956), Fulham P.L.; Rogers, S. M. (Miss) (1958), Tamworth P.L.; Russell, J. (1954), Sheffield P.L.; Saltfleet, W. (Miss) (1958), Sheffield P.L.; Seyer, B. (1958), British Institute of

Management L.; Shepherd, J. (Miss) (1957), Leicester P.L.; Shetge, M. S., B.A. (1957), Indian Council of Agricultural Research L.; Smith, A. T. (1958), Lancs. Co.L.; Smith, B. Y. C. (Miss) (1958), Norwich P.L.; Smith, H. (Miss) (1958), Durham Co.L.; Spencer, S. V. (Miss) (1956), Manchester P.L.; Spencer, W. (1958), Lancs. Co.L.; Steel, M. (Miss) (1956), Kensington P.L.; Sיעre, D. J. (Miss) (1958), Croydon P.L.; Tillyard, S., M.A. (1958), Chester Training College L.; Timperley, T. A. (Miss) (1957), Derbyshire Co.L.; Transom, E. C. (1957), Wandsworth P.L.; Tubbs, M. D. B. (Miss) (1958), Poole P.L.; Tuck, N. (Miss) (1958), Manchester P.L.; Turner, J. (Miss) (1956), West Riding Co.L.; Tweedie, I. D., B.A. (1955), State L. of Western Australia; Urwin, W. R. (Miss) (1958), Institute of Welding L.; Watson, W. J. H. (1958), Cumberland Co.L.; Weaver, J. (Miss) (1958), Dudley and Staffs. Technical College L.; Webb, B. (Miss), B.A. (1958), Holborn P.L.; White, D. H. (Miss) M.A. (1957), Glasgow Univ. L.; Wiles, G. M. (Miss) (1958), New Zealand House L.; Wiltshire, B. J. J., B.A. (1958), Weymouth P.L.; Yates, M. E. (Mrs.), M.A. (1958), Benger's Ltd. L.; Zucca, B. M. (Miss) (1954), Institution of Production Engineers L.

At the same meeting of the Council 2 Fellows and 10 Associates were re-instated on the Register and 5 Fellows and 9 Associates were removed from the Register through resignation or decrease as follows:

*Fellows:* Gifford, J. D., Gray, Duncan, Talmey, E. M. (Miss), Whitfield, G. (Mrs.), Whitwell, C.

*Associates:* Bradshaw, A. (Mrs.), Bayes, R. M. (Mrs.), Furniss, P. (Miss), Hornsby, N. B. (Mrs.), Kelbrick, J. (Mrs.), Martin, J. E. (Mrs.), Rice, J. H. (Mrs.), Watt, W. R.; Wilmore, M. R. (Mrs.).

### The Certificate for Teacher-Librarians

The first examination for the Certificate for Teacher-Librarians was held on the 3rd and 4th July, 1958. The number of candidates who presented themselves was 199; the examination was held in London, and at 16 other special centres permitted to institutes putting forward candidates. The number of candidates who passed was 70. The figures for the separate Papers were:

- I. (The Educational aspects of school librarianship) 111
- II. (The Technical aspects of school librarianship) 146
- III. (Practical classification and cataloguing for school libraries) 60

The number of candidates referred (i.e., who failed to pass in one Paper, but who obtained 60 or more marks in each of the other two Papers: a Pass in Paper I being obligatory) was, Paper II, 0; Paper III, 12.

Among the remarks made by the Examiners in their reports to the Joint Board of Assessors were the following:

*Paper I.* "A general impression is that too many candidates were insufficiently prepared for the examination; the standard of presentation was frequently low, and many candidates seemed to have difficulty in expressing themselves clearly . . . some restricted their answers to their own particular school; they failed to make use of a wider knowledge that should have been gained from

their studies and which would have helped them to examine their own work critically. Many also did not show that they had knowledge of the problems and conditions likely to be encountered in schools catering for children of a different age-range from that of their own pupils."

*Paper II.* "The high proportion of passes may be taken as giving evidence of practical knowledge gained through experience over a period of time, and extension of outlook through recent instruction and study. On the whole, papers revealed a refreshing, happy, sincere and vital interest in school librarianship, and an alacrity to acquire knowledge and help from all available resources. The general approach was purposeful and practical rather than merely academic, with the child and his needs very much in mind. Less able papers revealed such points as: lack of examination practice; incorrect reading of questions; too much generalizing."

*Paper III.* "All candidates need much more practice in cataloguing; the standard of presentation was generally very low; there was confusion between classified and dictionary catalogues; many failed to make full entry for the main card; annotations tended to be indiscriminate and much too long, and original annotations were rare. Question 5 'Catalogue as for your own school library ...' was frequently misinterpreted as calling for a literal reproduction of methods (however bad) actually used in the candidate's own school."

The Assessors themselves examined a large number of the scripts, including all borderline cases, and carefully considered the Examiners' reports. The comments of the Board are as follows:

*Paper I.* The subject matter dealt with in this Paper is very wide, and not easy to define; in a sense it covers a great part of the whole field of education. Above all, it calls for thinking out by the candidate of the implications of the library in his own teaching work, in the life of the school, and in the life of the children themselves. It is here above all that the candidate needs to meet others, to visit, discuss and compare, and to use every opportunity of finding out how other schools and teachers are making use of their libraries. It is no less important for him to keep in touch with the experiences of children themselves. The subject matter of the Paper is obviously difficult for lecturers to put across and to cover. They can do much by suggestion, description, illumination; but what is vital is that the candidate himself shall do his own thinking in the light not only of his own experience, but in view of all the opportunities for contact and discussion with others that he can make.

*Paper II.* It is clear, both from the Examiners' reports and from the marks awarded, that candidates on the whole were better prepared for this Paper than for either of the other two.

*Paper III.* There may well be a feeling that too high a standard is expected here. But in fact these twin subjects have a much more real relationship to good school librarianship than is sometimes thought. In the first place, no one can classify a book properly unless he has formed a clear idea of its character and scope. This is vitally important for any teacher or librarian, who ought to know the stock of his library well in order to advise colleagues and pupils. In the second place, the practised habit of cataloguing accurately, consistently and neatly not only makes the catalogue itself a far more useful and

agreeable tool to use, but is also an admirable example to the pupils of disciplined work. The Assessors therefore are convinced that a certificate in school librarianship must contain a guarantee that this has not been neglected.

The Assessors were taken by surprise at the large number of courses organized on so short notice, and by the number of candidates who presented themselves. In view of all the difficulties, the results must be regarded as most encouraging. It should be stressed that the certificate was designed from the beginning as an award testifying to a worthwhile standard of competence; and many candidates showed not only that they were well able to cope with the technical side of school librarianship but that they had given a great deal of thought to its educational application. At the same time the Assessors feel that the results support their view that a two-year course, not necessarily covering more subject matter but geared at a slower pace, is likely to prove more valuable than a one-year course in which a great deal of unfamiliar material is almost bound to be presented before earlier material has really been assimilated. It would also allow more time for a better acquaintance with books for young people; an impression was gained from many scripts reviewed that candidates were avoiding questions calling for a specific knowledge of books.

They would once more stress the importance of getting to know more of other schools and types of school, and so of gaining some standard by which to judge their own ideas and practice. This cannot be done through lectures: it involves meetings, discussions, visits, formal and informal. For this also a two-year course would appear to be better.

The Assessors would place on record their appreciation of the work of the Examiners. In all cases which the Assessors re-examined they were most impressed by the care and thoroughness with which the Examiners had carried out their work. Finally they express their thanks to the Secretary to the Board, Mr. B. I. Palmer, who is Education Officer of the Library Association. His experience and constant help and personal interest have been of quite outstanding value ever since the Board was first constituted.

C. A. STOTT,

Chairman, Joint Board of Assessors

#### INTRODUCTION TO REFERENCE BOOKS

The revised Third Edition of *Introduction to reference books* (A. D. Roberts) is being reprinted, and copies will be available shortly from the Secretary, price 16s. (12s. to members), post 6d.

#### SPECIAL SUBJECT LISTS

The latest lists to be published are No. 28. *The European Common Market and the European Free Trade Area* and No. 29. *National Cook-books*. Copies are available, price 2s. 6d. each.

These lists will not, in future, be issued on a subscription basis, but will be charged at 2s. 6d. per list. Libraries will be invoiced at the end of the year for the lists they have received during the year.

#### ESDAILE MEMORIAL FUND

Donations are gratefully acknowledged from: Miss E. M. M. Granger, Miss J. Gladstone, Miss H. M. Jennings, M. Jolliffe, W. R. Le Fanu, R. O. MacKenna, A. C. Townsend.

Total sum received to 21st October: £231 18s.

## Municipal Library Notes

Glancing back over the two previous "Municipal Library Notes", it would seem that less than justice has been done to many librarians and library authorities who send their annual reports, publicity material and reports of new libraries without receiving a word of notice. Space is limited and readers are spared the tedious list of acknowledgments which would be the only possible way of dealing with the mass of material that flows into Chaucer House on municipal library activities. Nevertheless it would be regretted if what is written here were to result in any reduction of the amount of publicity material that your contributor reads month by month and then forwards for use in the Library Association Library.

Trying to make amends inevitably means being highly selective and here we are on difficult ground. The planning and the effort that go into the conventional duplicated subject list can often outweigh that which has gone into the nicely printed list of additions. It is largely a matter of local circumstances of which the writer cannot hope to be aware except on rare occasions.

Annual reports first. LEEDS have for many years issued a report that is so typographically dull that it requires a deliberate effort to read it, but the content is a model of how to impart not only a belief in the public library service but an enthusiasm for the tasks ahead. In our professional sayings of the year we might very well include, on the subject of public libraries, "There can settle over all an undisturbed self-satisfaction which may well be the beginnings of disintegration."

The report from WILLESDEN is well printed and on more conventional lines, but nothing from Willesden is dull. Here is a careful, well-written summary of a year's progress—photo-charging; the extension of the period of loan; the increase of 20 per cent in the number of books on loan, are all dealt with soberly. There are no sins of omission here and it can be read.

SWINDON have not issued a report for three years and Mr. Jolliffe has been saving up a record of a remarkable achievement: two branch libraries and an extension to the reference library. The illustrations and text merely give a taste of the two excellent branch libraries—they are small, they are inexpensive but both are thoughtfully designed and a pleasure to enter.

It is with some hesitation that RUGBY's report is mentioned, as there are certainly no annual report clichés here. Perhaps we reach the other extreme

with such phrases as "Yet withal, the public library has so thrived under the cauterization of one smear after another", and "readers at all libraries seem to have cast the bitter benison of their articulate needs". In spite of this, it's well printed, it's thoughtful and it's enthusiastic.

From HOLBORN's latest annual report it really looks as though we are going to have a new central library in London in the near future. The battle has been in progress since 1955—a Ministry enquiry and the restriction on capital expenditure have been merely two of the hurdles that have been surmounted. A great deal of thought and time have been spent on the project, which is going to cost something in the neighbourhood of a quarter of a million pounds. What a pity that the elevation given in the annual report should appear to be so unpromising.

Censorship is an indispensable part of librarianship. It is book selection when we do it for what we think are the right reasons, and censorship when the other man, institution or Ministry, do it for what we think are the wrong reasons. BECKENHAM is in trouble with the editor of the *West Kent Mercury*, because: "a panel of aunties reads every book in Beckenham's public libraries before it reaches the chaste shelves." As a result because none of the so-called aunties is able to read Polish, they are unable to provide Polish books for their Polish residents. Mr. Reynolds of FINCHLEY, who not even the editor of the *West Kent Mercury* would categorize as an aunty, explains in his annual report how he found himself assailed from all sides for not buying a novel which he thought was not good enough for his library. He stuck to his guns. Finally we have the clerk to the court at Grimsby writing to Lindsey County Council asking them to withdraw *Malone dies* because, in the opinion of the Bench, it is obscene. The book was quoted in his defence by a man accused of using obscene language. He was fined £2. As a contributor over many years to these columns, it is appropriate that Mr. Reynolds should have the last word on this problem: "The public library really is expected by an enlightened reading public to be all books to all men and it is no bad thing that librarians should from time to time get sharp reminders of it."

E. A. CLOUGH

### Correction to November "Appointments and Retirements"

HIPPESON.—Mr. L. G. Hipperson, A.L.A., Assistant, Fire Service College L., to be Assistant, Government Communications Hq.L., Cheltenham.

## County Library Notes

Being always faintly suspicious of statistical comparisons between varying library authorities, when the County Treasurer gave me the latest annual return on English and Welsh county libraries, I extracted the entries for the eight counties which have sent me their annual reports. I checked the picture each statistical entry gave me against the written report, and at the same time, so far as each report would allow, compared the result with the recommendations in the draft Memorandum on "Standards of Public Library Service" as described in *Libri*, vol. 8, No. 2, 1958. (The standards are substantially the same as those in the Library Association's Centenary booklet.)

It is a pity the first report, for MONTGOMERYSHIRE, the smallest of the eight, offers no opinion on the adequacy of staff and book fund, for it is the only county operating, so far as these are concerned, above the "standards". Per thousand of the population three times as much money is spent on books as in the average Welsh, and twice as much as in the average English, county. At 44 per cent, the number of people served is probably amongst the highest in Great Britain, yet it costs twelve counties more than the Montgomeryshire 9.41d. to issue a book, and not all have such a low population density or such difficult country to cover.

Neighbouring DENBIGHSHIRE, with three and a half times the population, although well above average in terms of books issued, is below the English average for money spent on books and staff, and below the Welsh average for staff. Two slightly smaller places, but each about the same size, would need, with Denbigh, to have their bookfunds doubled, with a doubling of staff in one, if the "standards" were applied. The reports on these two counties are unhelpful as interpretations; the ISLE OF ELY, whilst plainly saying that additional and qualified staff are needed and that the bookstock is inadequate, yet manages with well below average expenditure to produce above average results. The ISLE OF WIGHT, in the gloomiest of reports, offers no clue as to why, with twice as much money for salaries and a third more for books, it only achieves below average issue results.

GLAMORGAN, if all its stock is "live", still has only 6 books for every 10 people, the lowest recorded, and it also has the lowest bookfund with, not unexpectedly, the lowest issue per 1,000 population served. Well may the report speak of

1957-58 as a year of "plodding", but when the finding of shelf space for books is described as a never-ceasing battle, one sees a picture of completely inadequate bookstocks, staff and buildings. By the "standards", the annual intake of new books needs to be multiplied four or five times, and at a guess the staff needs similar multiplication. Across the Bristol Channel is GLOUCESTERSHIRE, about as large as Glamorgan, and here, too, only five counties have fewer books per head, and there is well below average expenditure on books and staff. The report shows that progress is being made, and mobile and static branches are being provided to a plan. Whether enough is being done, and quickly enough to meet present needs, is discussed at length in the report.

With almost 9 books for every 10 people, DURHAM follows Gloucestershire in the bookstock table. Like the others, the bookfund needs to be more than doubled, and a hundred more staff are needed to reach the "standards", but only two-thirds of the English average is spent on books, although slightly more than the average on salaries. It is interesting to see that in only five towns do the inhabitants read more than the inmates of Durham Prison, and one wonders if the ratio of staff to prisoners, as well as enforced leisure, has anything to do with this result. It is not possible to check the Essex bookstock figures, but although the county spends half as much again as the average English county, the report speaks of a 36,000 decrease in the numbers of books bought (for the third year in succession) and of a 10 per cent cut in new books for full-time branches. Obviously here, too, the bookstock is insufficient, and the staff is about 75 per cent of what the "standards" suggest. Inadequate or not, only seven counties can show better results in terms of issues.

One of the seven is HERTFORDSHIRE, now spending a third above average on books, and a fifth more on salaries; as in the smaller counties, the bookfund ought to be doubled and a third more staff are needed. The Hertfordshire report indicates one factor, impossible to measure statistically, which influences the achievements possible from a given quantity of books and staff. New buildings have gone up, new mobile branches have arrived or are on the way, buildings are being adapted, and to these vehicles and buildings, including the new college libraries, public and students can go; perhaps more important still, the staff can there exploit the bookstock in a positive fashion. The annual statistical return does give totals of full and part-



time branches, and of mobile libraries, but it cannot say how big or how small, or where, the branches are; how frequently the mobile service travels its circuit; or even whether the branches are 1900 vintage in appearance, or 1958 style.

It remains to be seen what effect the block grant will have on library expenditure, but in the meantime the difficulties which prevented capital expenditure on buildings appear to be melting away. One hears from all sides, and not only in annual reports, of here a new mobile library, there a new branch library, unused for lack of a qualified librarian, apart from the older service points unmanned (or manned by temporary staff) since the last assistant resigned. Only four of the eight counties which sent reports give exact staff numbers, but by the "standards" these four need exactly 230 more assistants, and if it is assumed that only half need to be qualified, that is 115 chartered librarians, wanted by four counties alone, in the foreseeable future. From Canada, the United States, and right across Northern Europe, comes the same story of shortage of qualified staff, and of plans to deal with the situation. One has seen estimates of the numbers needed to fill existing vacancies in Great Britain, but has anyone yet begun to think of how to meet the problem, let alone to cope with the expansion in counties and in the technical college and special libraries?

It seems that a number of counties, seeing the situation, are doing what they can to step up the training of their own junior staffs, but unless we are to revert to the old method of part-time day, or correspondence course, study, the training of increased numbers of staff is a matter for national concern. As one of the bodies most concerned, could not the County Libraries Section set a working party to consider the situation? Perhaps at the same time the working party could look at the "standards" suggestion, that salaries should be comparable with those paid in education in the respective countries. County librarians are accustomed to having library salary scales compared with both administrative and teaching salary scales; they are also, more disconcertingly, used to having candidates for A.P.T. I vacancies adversely compared with teacher candidates for posts with a lower-starting salary scale. The quality of available candidates has a direct bearing on salary scales, and any working party might well consider not only the emergency training of staff, but how to improve the quality of those coming forward for training.

O. S. NEWMAN

## Correspondence

(Correspondents are requested to write as briefly as possible.)

### REGISTRATION EXAMINATION SYLLABUS REVISION

MR. A. THOMPSON, M.A., F.L.A., *Science Museum Library*, writes:

I wish to offer some late, but I hope, therefore, well-considered, comments on the proposed new Registration Syllabus outlined in the RECORD for March, 1957.

Two principles must specially be borne in mind, which seem to me to be the motives for wishing to revise the present syllabus; they are:

1. To make better provision for *candidates with different backgrounds and levels of education and ambition*, i.e., for:
  - (a) *Juniors* who naturally aspire to be recognized as librarians, but do not aim at higher posts. (The present Registration Examination is too high for them.)
  - (b) *Non-graduates* who, by taking the whole syllabus, acquire full professional status in no way inferior to graduates.
  - (c) *Graduates*, who should not have to take over again subjects already passed for a degree. They should be exempt from the F.P.E., and from papers in the literature and librarianship of their degree subjects.
2. To provide a better training for work in *all types of libraries*, national, public and university and special.

For this purpose the proposed "common core" is an excellent idea; but as put forward it leaves loop-holes for omitting essentials such as practical cataloguing and classification (paper 9 in proposed syllabus) and book production (paper 10).

In the proposed arrangement of the papers, I find some cross-classification and wrong allocation of papers to certain groups. To correct this, and to ensure that a new syllabus would satisfy the above two principles, I would suggest in outline the following:

#### A Suggested Syllabus

##### I. The First Professional Examination

This should be retained as an instrument for sorting out suitable candidates. Too many young people think they would like to become librarians, without knowing

just what it means, and the "F.P.E." is an essential and well-designed "sieve" for sorting them out.

Graduates should be granted exemption.

## II. The Registration Examination (A.L.A.).

Group A. The Techniques of Books and Libraries. (This is the "common core", and all papers must be taken by candidates.)

### 1. Book production, or physical bibliography.

(This is basic knowledge needed by all types of librarians, and cannot remain an alternative paper as suggested in *L.A.R.*, March, 1957.)

2 and 3. Cataloguing and Classification, including practical—2 papers (paper A1 in suggestions of *L.A.R.* March, 1957, but add paper 9 (which must be compulsory).)

4. Bibliographical organization. (As paper A2 in *L.A.R.*, March, 1957.)

5. Library routines, i.e., Accessioning methods, Ordering methods, Loan methods, Circulation of periodicals (including their application to different types of libraries).

(In the existing syllabus these are rather sketchily fitted into the administration paper, group C vi; they would be better in a separate paper, thus freeing the administration paper for wider questions of administration and organization. See 6, below.)

6. Library Organization and Administration. (With alternative groups within the paper for different types of libraries, as in present paper C vi, but omitting the routines covered by 5 above.)

(Papers A 3, 4, 5 and 6 in suggested syllabus of March, 1957.)

Group B. Special types of librarianship. (Choice of one paper only.)

7. Library service for young people (paper 7 in *L.A.R.*, March, 1957.)

8. Library work for prisons, hospitals, and for the blind. (Paper 8 in *L.A.R.*, March, 1957, but add work for prisoners and blind.)

9. Archive administration. (Paper 13 in *L.A.R.*, March, 1957.)

10. Dissemination of Information. (Paper 15 in *L.A.R.* March, 1957.) (Public librarians would take 7 or 8, and university and special librarians would take 9 or 10.)

Group C. History of books and printing. (Choice of one paper only.)

11. History of books and printing. (Paper 11 in *L.A.R.*, March, 1957.)

12. Bibliographical method. (Paper 12 in *L.A.R.*, March, 1957.)

13. Palaeography. (Paper 14 in *L.A.R.*, March, 1957.)

Group D. Literature and Librarianship of special subjects. (Choice of any two papers. Papers 16 *et seq.* in *L.A.R.*, March, 1957.)

## Candidates' Choice of Papers

Those wanting a junior qualification would take the F.P.E. and then Group A only of the Registration (the "common core"), which is quite sufficient for the mass of skilled but junior work to be done, especially in larger libraries. Those who pass should be granted a Junior Certificate of Librarianship, or a Junior Associateship. (A successful precedent for this is provided by the present syllabus of the University of Cape Town School of Librarianship which grants a junior certificate as well as the full higher Certificate and Diploma in Librarianship. It is worth noting that this is done by a school of librarianship run by a university.)

Graduates, on the other hand, who approach their study of librarianship with certain study already behind

them, would have the usual exemption from the F.P.E., and also from subjects in Group D already passed in their degree course.

I maintain that the adoption of an educational policy of this kind for the Registration examinations would do something to unify our profession. I speak from experience in university and special libraries in South Africa and in Britain, and from some years of teaching classification, and more recently teaching library organization and administration. I am also a member of Aslib.

## APPOINTMENTS IN N. IRELAND

MR. T. MACCALLUM WALKER, M.A., PH.D., F.L.A.I., Librarian, Magee University College, writes:

Might I draw the attention of our Association's members to the extraordinary state of affairs pertaining to professional appointments in Northern Ireland? At the present time, appointments to senior professional posts in the public library services of Northern Ireland require the approval of the Ministry of Health and Local Government in Northern Ireland. But, while this Ministry may give its approval (and normally does so), the successful applicant has still to pass the more formidable hurdle of the Northern Ireland Ministry of Labour. Under the Safeguarding of Employment Act, 1947, this Ministry has control over almost all forms of employment in Northern Ireland and is empowered to issue or refuse labour permits to persons, not of Northern Ireland birth or domicile, who obtain appointments in Northern Ireland. One of the objects of the Act was to ensure that, in a region where unemployment is relatively high, Northern Ireland workers should be given preference over persons from Great Britain or the Republic of Ireland. Undoubtedly, when the Act was conceived, it was directed primarily at safeguarding the skilled, semi-skilled, agricultural and labouring sections of the community. Nevertheless, it does apply to almost all forms of professional employment as well. (Incidentally, although it does not apply to university teaching staff, it does apply to university library staffs).

While it would be practically impossible to obtain such a statement in writing, I have been assured verbally and privately by a senior official of the Ministry of Labour that where there is a choice between two candidates for an appointment, one of whom is British and has maximum qualifications and experience, while the other is a Northern Ireland person with only the minimum specified qualifications, the choice must go to the Northern Ireland candidate. To my certain knowledge over a period of several years, this has been the actual practice, not only



in librarianship, but in various other professions. Two instances of the Ministry's refusal to grant permits to British librarians after appointments had been made have occurred in recent weeks.

It is one thing that potential applicants for Northern Ireland posts should be warned; but there is another and professionally more important aspect that requires to be noted. There are as yet no facilities for full-time professional training in Northern Ireland. An annual week-end school has been initiated but, needless to say, this is no substitute for a school of librarianship on the British pattern. Geography, transport and the small numbers of library staffs are relevant factors. In some libraries there is little incentive or, indeed, opportunity for young assistants to obtain professional qualifications; although in recent years the number of chartered librarians has increased, there are insufficient vacancies in Northern Ireland to ensure that these obtain experience outside of their present systems. There is thus a generation of qualified librarians who, unless they can be persuaded to seek experience in Great Britain, will have no opportunity of broadening their professional horizons and experience beyond the boundaries of their present systems and for whom there is unlikely to be any substantial hope of advancement within Northern Ireland. The answer may appear obvious—let them find experience elsewhere. That, however, is not the point. For various reasons, the majority will prefer to remain in Northern Ireland. Without effort on their part, they know that the Ministry of Labour will prefer them to any British applicant for a particular post, however good his qualifications and experience. This may be convenient for them, but it is not in the best interests of sound library service. The number of library systems in Northern Ireland is limited. One can envisage the time when these will be administered by librarians who are admittedly chartered, but who have known only one other system and that in a region which even now comes nowhere near adequate library standards, in the majority of its systems. In short, with a ban on the infusion of fresh professional blood, the public library service in Northern Ireland is in danger of ultimate collapse.

The Northern Ireland Ministry of Labour alone can solve this problem, but it will require pressure at the highest professional level. The Northern Ireland Branch of the Library Association is not in a position to act, since a majority of both its committee and its membership stand to benefit by the Ministry's enforcement of the Act. The Minister of Labour is empowered to

add to the Schedule of the Act any category of employment which he may wish to exempt from the Act's application. Might I suggest that the Council seek to persuade the Ministry of the folly of its present course so far as librarianship is concerned and seek to have the profession exempted from the Act's application?

MR. W. B. PATON, F.L.A., *Hon. Secretary of the L.A.*, writes:

The Library Association made strong representations to the Ministry of Labour of Northern Ireland in protest against their refusal to grant a work permit to the successful candidate for the post of Deputy County Librarian of County Antrim, but in spite of this, and of pressure from other sources, the Ministry refused to change their decision, stating that each case is considered on its merits. The situation has been reported to the Council, and all possible action will be taken to influence the Ministry of Labour in Northern Ireland towards a more liberal policy in this important matter.

#### PUBLIC LIBRARY CHARGES

ALDERMAN F. J. STOTT, J.P., *Chairman, Plymouth Public Libraries and Museums Committee*, writes:

Towards the end of the discussion of one of the papers at the Annual Conference, the Chairman of the Dudley Public Libraries Committee suggested that in his opinion the time had come when local authorities should begin to make charges for some of the services public libraries were now providing, naming, among others, as a possible source of revenue, our assistance to commerce and industry.

I do not know how widespread this attitude is, but I feel that its unanswered presentation at an Annual Conference of the Library Association calls for comment.

The idea behind it is quite a simple one; if you want more money for your libraries, then you should increase your revenue by making charges. Yes, the idea is a simple one, but how dangerous are its ultimate implications. We may begin by making charges upon industry (though I wonder how anyone could possibly decide the relative charges to make when a library provides the answers to such questions as, "What is the weight of 18-gauge sheet aluminium per square foot?" or "What is the principal firm of fish-cake manufacturers in Liverpool?"). Or, indeed, how could one possibly estimate the cash value of all the many services to practically every section of the community which a reference library provides each year, both to individuals and organizations? Still, assuming some genius in the audit department can solve this problem, where do we go from there?

Having tasted the fruits of private enterprise, the librarian who wants to increase his book-fund once more can well be expected to be told to make charges for other services. For example, why not, shall we say, charge adults 1s. per annum membership fee, and children 6d.? Such charges in these days, it can be argued, are no hardship whatsoever, and in a town the size of Plymouth would give an additional income of £3,000.

So far, so good. The following year, however, a branch library may be required to serve a new housing estate. As usual, the Finance Committee will be quite definite that it has no money available and, now the habit has been established, may suggest, no doubt, that further sources of income raising should be considered by the Libraries Committee. After all, if we charge adults only 2d. per week and children 1d. per week, we should (still using Plymouth as an example) be able to raise £12,000 per annum.

And so this Rake's Progress would proceed until we find a number of entirely new situations arising:

- (a) The increasing charges would result in an ever-falling membership, so that many who need the educational advantages of a public library would no longer be able to enjoy them.
- (b) Some of the more "progressive" exponents of private enterprise for public libraries might, however, decide to check this fall in membership and income by the simple and well-tested devices of commercial television. They would realize the box office appeal of flooding their shelves with cheap, gaudy, immoral and superficial fiction, and proceed to do so at the expense of the real purpose of public libraries.
- (c) Finally, the income of libraries would undoubtedly be governed almost entirely by their earning capacities, and so nearly all prospects of intelligent or experimental developments would cease.

Now, here is a situation which could arise if local authorities' representatives, librarians, and the Library Association, do not present the answers quickly and firmly if ever the suggested policy of the Chairman of Dudley Public Libraries Committee is discussed at any level.

There is no more reason for making any direct charge for the services of a public library than there is for paying fees to send your child to a rate-supported school. In spite of the superficial, and indeed irresponsible, measurement of public libraries as merely "amenity" organizations

contained in the evidence submitted to the Roberts Committee on behalf of the A.M.C. by the uninformed persons who acted for that organization, public libraries remain a great instrument of education and information.

#### THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MR. N. E. DAIN, F.L.A., *Lecturer-in-charge, Leeds School of Librarianship*, writes:

Now that the gentle force of the President's practical wisdom and calm sense of purpose, encountered by librarians listening to his address, has been allowed to settle on us for a while, is there not one particular recommendation which we might reconsider as seriously as all of his ideas deserve to be considered. Professor Irwin was concerned with the practical value of our conference and the cost of the conference, both to the corporation, which acts as host and to the public authorities which so generously pay for the attendance of the delegates. At a conference many ideas arise which are usually entirely consumed as conference fuel by delegates and rarely lead on to further discussion. In suggesting regional or section conferences he may have promoted an idea for organizing conferences which could reach a wider regional audience, and be nearly as representative of chartered librarians in general as of chief librarians and chairmen. The marked absence from the A.G.M. in the last two years of apparently any member of the committee of the U. and R. Section of the Association, who is deputed to answer questions, is some indication of the non-representative nature of a national conference, and in any case few librarians of any category other than chief officers attend.

The annual conference might be divided into northern and southern conferences, with an A.G.M. for the whole profession in London.

The costs might be reduced a little, but the relation between cost and effectiveness would be much better due to the more representative audiences which might be available. Professor Irwin did not seem to make his recommendation so much on the base of categorical costs as of relative value for costs. It deserves further thought. If the idea stimulates favourable impressions which lead to other letters on this subject, perhaps the Editor might think fit to submit the correspondence to the next Conference Sub-Committee. My own view is that conferences should be more representative than they can be at the present, although I do not think that small inter-branch conferences or even sectional conferences would be effective substitutes.

## JOINT FICTION RESERVE

MR. S. BUTCHER, F.L.A., *Hon. Secretary, Association of Metropolitan Chief Librarians*, writes:

Many librarians outside the area of Metropolitan London have forwarded novels withdrawn from their libraries to complete holdings in the Joint Fiction Reserve. I have been asked to call the attention of librarians to this collection and to state that my colleagues in Metropolitan London would welcome offers of fiction, including children's stories and English translations of foreign works.

To save the work involved in typing lists of titles, the book cards or catalogue cards can be dispatched to the appropriate Metropolitan Library for checking. The allocation of authors is as follows:

A-BAI	Battersea	HOZ-KEL	Kensington
BAJ-BEL	Bermondsey	KEM-L	Lambeth
BEM-BOR	Bethnal Green	MA-MAY	Lewisham
BOS-CAP	Camberwell	MAZ-MOO	St. Marylebone
CAQ-CHD	Chelsea	MOP-OO	Paddington
CHE-COL	Deptford	OP-PIC	Poplar
COM-CRH	Finbury	PID-RNZ	St. Pancras
CRI-DEL	Fulham	ROA-SHA	Southwark
DEM-DRY	Greenwich	SHB-SN	Shoreditch
DRZ-FOZ	Hackney	SO-THI	Stepney
FR-GN	Hammersmith	THL-TRD	Stoke Newington
GO-GRD	Hampstead	TRE-WEB	Wandsworth
GRE	Holborn	WEC-WI	Westminster
GRI-HOY	Islington	WJ-Z	Woolwich

## BOOKPLATES

MR. H. J. HADEN, *President, Stourbridge Historical Society*, writes:

In February you were kind enough to print a letter from me appealing to public librarians for copies of the bookplates used in their libraries. The response was not as ready as I had hoped and so I had to supplement the exhibitions that have been staged at Stourbridge and Eastbourne Public Libraries with bookplates from the libraries of learned societies, schools, private individuals, etc., to the donors of which I would express my deep thanks.

It would be impertinent of me to criticize the public library bookplates so generously sent to me but I feel that I should make special mention of the beautiful examples from Liverpool (S. Gooden) and Leeds (Joan Hassall and F. W. Skinnard), closely followed by those of Stockport and Beddington and Wallington. The last was designed by the Librarian, Mr. W. J. Hill, whose accompanying letter I shall treasure for its fine penmanship.

May I give vent to one "moan"? It would seem

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that some of the clerks who deal with library correspondence are singularly devoid of feeling for printed matter. Repeatedly I found that bookplates sent to me had been spoiled by being creased once and sometimes twice before being put into an envelope that would take them without such treatment, and others were damaged by being cruelly impaled by pins or impressed by paper clips. One would expect the staffs of public libraries to know better.

### BUCOP AND WORLD LIST

MR. JAMES D. STEWART, M.B.E., F.L.A.,  
*Editor and Executive Officer, British union-catalogue of periodicals*, writes:

Both *BUCOP* and the *World list* are under obligations to continue their publications in the scope and style already established. As *BUCOP* is to be continued indefinitely, we are under special obligations to the Nuffield Foundation and the National Central Library to do this.

The main difficulty seems to arise from our respective requests for the lists of holdings to be supplied by co-operating libraries to be compiled on different lines. In the case of some libraries this would mean a considerable task.

Our request, however, was not intended as rigid; and we are quite happy to receive a duplicate of a list compiled on *World list* lines.

I have been in touch with the *World list*, and I understand that they are prepared to accept duplicates of lists compiled on *BUCOP* lines.

May I hope that this assurance will remove any difficulties that may have arisen. We are grateful to our co-operating libraries for the manner in which they respond to our requests, and I am anxious that no removable obstacle shall stand in their way.

### Music Libraries Congress

The first International Congress of the Galpin Society and the Fifth International Congress of Music Libraries with the Third General Assembly of the International Association of Music Libraries will take place jointly at Cambridge from 29th June to 4th July, 1959. The Congress will be based on King's College, where accommodation will be provided at an inclusive charge of about 35s. per night. Further details from A. Hyatt King, Music Room, British Museum, London, W.C.1.

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ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY, JUNE-SEPTEMBER, 1958

### 000—GENERAL WORKS

DAILY MAIL. Books. London, Associated Newspapers, 1958. 159 p. 002

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(To be continued)

### Reviews

BAKER (E. A.) and FOSKETT (D. J.). *Bibliography of food: a select international bibliography of nutrition, food and beverage technology and distribution, 1936-56*. xii, 331 pp. 1958. (Butterworths Scientific Publications, 63r.)

The compilation of a comprehensive bibliography of such a many-sided subject as food was a major undertaking and the joint authors, both of them men of wide experience in this field, are to be congratulated on their achievement.

The book does not claim to be a complete bibliography—indeed it is doubtful whether such a thing would be possible—but it does contain a wealth of material well arranged and attractively presented. Division is by main headings covering, besides the individual types of food, such general subjects as world food supplies; distribution; marketing and retailing; prices and statistics; food control and rationing; nutrition; food manufacture and technology; food preservation; food storage; packaging; transport; food analysis; food hygiene and food poisoning; food legislation and inspection. These main headings are further sub-divided, the sub-divisions varying in number and aspect according to the subject. In every case bibliographies, periodicals and organizations have been included. Author and subject indexes are appended, but there is no index to the organizations cited as such. An index of these would be useful and might well be considered in future editions of the work. Where the title of an

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item is not self-explanatory, a short note on its scope has been added.

Publications on cookery, catering and housewifery have been omitted and so have periodical articles (with a few exceptions), it being assumed that these are covered by the abstracting journals. Standard specifications and "semi"-published work have also been excluded.

In such a book any errors and omissions can only be discovered gradually as the book is brought into use. An example of the former is on page 159, where a book by Grosperre on raw materials and recipes for cakes and biscuits is listed under "Sugar confectionery".

This bibliography is a book which no one interested in the literature of food can afford to be without, and it is to be hoped that the publishers will take steps to have it brought up to date in two or three years' time.

M. I. WYATT

*Bibliography of international congresses of medical sciences.* Prepared by W. J. Bishop under the auspices of the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences, with the financial assistance of Unesco. [In English and French.] 1958. xii, 238 pp. (Oxford, Blackwell Scientific Publications, 25s.)

In his introduction Mr. W. J. Bishop describes this work as a "tentative list of the more important publications arising from international congresses in the medical field", and he provides a brief history of medical congresses, with details of previous sources of information on these meetings. Lists published in the *Index Catalogue* include the holdings of the present National Library of Medicine at Washington, but none of the previously published lists is a bibliography comparable to the work here reviewed. This attempts to include all international congresses dealing with medicine and related sciences. Increasing specialization is evident by the growth of meetings devoted to specific fields as compared with broad subjects, and we find recorded here 1,427 congresses devoted to 362 different aspects of medicine.

Information provided by this useful bibliography includes the subject of the congress; number; place of meeting; precise dates where possible; and bibliographical details of the published texts of papers read. Where there was no volume of proceedings published, references are given to reports in periodicals. Arrangement in the main bibliography is under subject headings which begin with "Acoustics" and proceed through "Air Pollution", "B.C.G.", "Corneal

Surgery", "Hypnotism", "Medical Education", "Radioisotopes", etc., to "Yaws". There is an exhaustive index.

Many valuable papers have been read at international congresses, and are sometimes buried in the published proceedings. This bibliography will assist librarians in tracing such material, and will also aid the cataloguer who tends to postpone dealing with "congresses", many of which present numerous bibliographical difficulties. It is hoped that librarians will send notes of omissions, etc., to the editor, as requested, so that a second edition may be even more complete than this meticulously prepared bibliography.

JOHN L. THORNTON

IRWIN (RAYMOND). *The golden chain: a study in the history of libraries.* An inaugural lecture, delivered at University College, London, 21st Nov., 1957. 1958. 20 pp. (H. K. Lewis).

IRWIN (RAYMOND). *The origins of the English library.* 1958. 255 pp. (Allen & Unwin, 25s.)

Professor Irwin's choice of a subject for his inaugural lecture as Professor of Library Studies in the University of London is characteristic of him. He might, being constantly occupied with the training of librarians and archivists, have made that his theme; alternatively he might have chosen some aspect of library administration which happened to be near his heart, and discoursed learnedly and minutely upon it. Instead, he chose as his theme the entire history of libraries, setting it against the social and cultural background of the day—a task for which his profound knowledge of the history of libraries and of scholarship in general renders him ideally equipped. He has shown, in *The golden chain*, how libraries have been involved in the history, not only of scholarship in the narrower sense, but of human civilization, culture and literacy; how, in each age, the fortunes of libraries have depended on the need for collections of books, the materials available for book production, and the social and intellectual climate prevailing. As the figurative "golden chain" of the Platonic Academy maintained its existence through a thousand years, Professor Irwin concludes, so now successive links are forged by the meeting of writer and reader in the living communities of books which form our libraries.

In *The origins of the English library*, one section of the same field is surveyed in greater detail. An account of the libraries of ancient Greece and Rome introduces a section dealing with those likely to have existed in the villas of Roman Britain. On the departure of the legions

from Britain, the responsibility of preserving literary records passed to the Church, so that the history of the period which follows, and which lasted for a thousand years, is bound closely with that of the Church in Britain, especially the monastic establishments. The results of the introduction of printing and of paper, and the growth of scholarship, especially among the laity, are noted before Professor Irwin turns to the dissolution of the monastic houses and the dispersal of the contents of their libraries, when the emphasis is transferred to the personal libraries of the great collectors. To the scholarly aristocrats of Tudor and Restoration times—such men as Sir Robert Cotton and the Lumleys—was due the preservation of a great number of important works, manuscript and printed, including much material from the monastic libraries. The times were favourable for the formation of domestic libraries: there was an adequate degree of literacy, an appreciation of the value of books, and an active book market with means for the production and distribution of books. The personal working collection of the scholar first appears with that of Sir Thomas More, while the works of writers such as Robert Burton bear evidence of their literary researches. An outstanding instance of the reflection of a man's personality by his private library is afforded by that of Samuel Pepys, preserved in its original cases, with his diaries, at Magdalene College, while the hospitality of the great collectors in admitting students to their libraries compensated to some extent for the lack of public libraries.

In the eighteenth century, with the continuing extension of literacy, the habit of reading spread widely, and reading as a pastime makes its first appearance. It was at that time that the popularity, cost, and ephemeral nature of the novel led to the appearance of the circulating library. In the century which followed, every man of note had his personal collection, some of which, such as those of Sir Joseph Banks and Thomas Grenville, have passed in their entirety into the keeping of public libraries, while the acquisition by the Linnean Society of the library of Linnaeus is mentioned as an example of the transfer of a highly specialized private collection to an institution devoted to the same field of activity.

The re-publication of these essays in an expanded and largely rewritten form will bring great satisfaction both to those who first read them in the pages of the RECORD, and to the wider public to whom they are now made available for the first time. In his foreword, Professor Irwin remarks on the kindness of fortune which

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allowed him to spend much time in reading all he could find about the libraries which form the subject of this book. His readers will be grateful that he has made some of the results of his studies available in this way, and that, thanks to the wide range of his learning, he has successfully avoided anything approaching a succession of facts and conjectures, producing instead a living and authoritative work which deals in a compelling manner with a neglected but highly important aspect of the history of human institutions and culture.

F. J. HILL

MASON (D.). *A primer of non-book materials in libraries*. 1958. 115 pp. (Association of Assistant Librarians, 20s., 15s. to members.)

"During the last ten years there has been a growing emphasis on the use of non-book materials in libraries, particularly on the use of microtext . . . this primer has been written as an attempt to bring together, in a form suitable for students, information on these various special materials . . . this book is aimed at the present Registration examination level . . . without going into a wealth of minute detail".

These quotations indicate the aim of the book, but the author is unduly modest; it could be used



as a guide by any practising librarian having to cope with such matters for the first time.

The chapter-headings are: I—Maps; II—Illustrations; III—Press cuttings; IV—Films; V—Photocopies; VI—Microcopies; VII—Information storage and retrieval; and there is an appendix on "Sound recordings" by Miss J. C. Cowan. There is a group of 8 plates bound in the middle of the book.

Chapters V and VI contain the best account of documentary reproduction methods known to me; illustrated as they are by very helpful diagrams, they are lucid and easy to understand, and if taken in conjunction with Burkett's *Micro-recording in libraries* (L.A. Pamphlet), they provide all that one needs to know in ordinary circumstances, not merely for examination purposes but for practical use as well.

I would quibble only with Mr. Mason's statement about "Photostat" that it has a range of production from half the size of the original to twice its size—this is subject to the absolute limits of size of what the equipment can manage. It might have been worth mentioning also the "Statfile" camera, which is used by the same company for originals which are too large for the "Photostat" camera by copying on to 70 mm. film, from which enlargements are made.

Another small criticism relates to map storage. Mr. Mason lays some emphasis on the use of cabinets of shallow drawers in which the maps are stored horizontally, and this equipment is illustrated in a plate; "Plan-file" equipment is mentioned briefly, and is not illustrated. My own experience suggests that the "Plan-file" storage is much preferable to the drawers, in which it is most difficult to return maps to their correct places without the expenditure of toil, tears, and sweat. It might be worth mentioning, too, that if maps are stored in the type of vertical file shown in plate 1, then when the drawers are getting full, the upper must not be opened while the lower is open also, otherwise the whole thing tends to fall forward, with possible unfortunate consequences.

But these are minor criticisms—the book was well worth publishing and contains valuable information for everyone. No doubt its make-up was settled before the appearance of Clough's *Bookbinding for librarians*, which is one of the few professional publications whose appearance is a credit to the profession. Mr. Mason's is not, I regret to say; I think it looks drab, will soil easily, and will be all the better for rebinding. The paper is only fair, but the type is Monotype Bembo, which is pleasant to look at and very easy to read.

The A.A.L. are to be congratulated on commissioning the work. R. J. HOY

## Obituary

HAXBY.—We regret to announce the death of Richard Haxby on 23rd August, 1958.

"Dick" Haxby was one of the bright young men of the pre-World War I era. Trained at Bootle, he went to Leeds in 1910, where Hawkes, Pollitt and Sydney were his contemporaries; unlike them he was destined to stay there for the rest of his career. I first met him in 1927 when I moved from Hull to Leeds to serve under him in his Commercial and Technical Library, which he had developed with outstanding energy and ability after its opening in 1918. In my opinion he could easily have risen to a more distinguished position had he not become so immersed in his beloved "CT" that he gradually lost interest in any other branch of the service. He was one of those dedicated librarians (and there are many) who are content to see others pick up the plums of the profession because they prefer to work in a more limited field.

During the 24 years I spent in his Department, I found it fascinating to work with him, to see the enthusiasm and energy he brought to all he did, and his unbounded faith in its value to the community. Already at that time he had established those valuable contacts with the business and industrial life of the city which did so much to enhance the reputation of the library. For a number of years he took charge of the Leeds Development Committee's Stand at the British Industries Fair. His energy in those days was prodigious; if no information existed he would set about compiling it for himself, and he was an inveterate indexer. He made an enormous card index of Leeds trades; he began an index of trade names; he compiled a Register of Translators (one of the first to do so); he gathered together a superb collection of trade catalogues, all carefully classified and indexed; he formed an extensive vertical file of clippings which he called his "File of current data" long before it came generally into use. He built up the best Library of Patents, English, German and American, outside the Patent Office itself. He collected assiduously and publicized widely. His series of bulletins, each on a particular branch of the service, were models of accuracy and skilful persuasion. He compiled for the Corporation an admirable guide to the commercial and industrial activities of Leeds which was given world-wide distribution. Otherwise, he published very little, but his contribution on "Municipal commercial and technical libraries" to *The reference librarian in university, municipal and specialized libraries*, edited by J. D. Stewart, 1951 (pp. 85-155), is a highly personal and readable account of his own practice at Leeds.

In 1927 he used to talk to me hopefully about his plans to transfer his Department to the spacious Sculpture Room of the Art Gallery. Twenty-eight years later this was accomplished, a fitting conclusion to his work.

To those who did not know him well he sometimes seemed rather aloof, but he was wonderfully kind to, and patient with, his immediate colleagues, generously sharing his knowledge and experience with them. I owe much to him for all he gave to me in knowledge and friendship during my formative years. He deserves to be remembered professionally for the distinct contribution he made to the development of commercial and technical departments in public libraries. J. T. GILLET

## Appointments and Retirements

ARNOLD.—Mr. B. C. Arnold, Assistant, North Herts. Region, Hertfordshire Co.L., to be Senior Assistant.

ATKINS.—Mr. R. F. Atkins, A.L.A., Senior Assistant in charge, N. Chingford Branch, Essex Co.L., to be Deputy Librarian, Peterborough P.L.

BINDER.—Miss J. E. Binder, F.L.A., Reference Librarian, Wandsworth P.L., to be Assistant Librarian, Patent Office.

BLAGDEN.—Mr. J. F. Blagden, Library Assistant, Chemical Society, to be Librarian, Zinc Development Association.

BRAZIER.—Mrs. H. M. Brazier (*née* Sealey), Assistant, Birmingham P.L., to be Assistant, Northampton P.L.

CHEYNEY.—Mr. K. G. Cheyney, A.L.A., Senior Assistant, Holborn P.L., to be Assistant-in-charge, Central Lending Library, Barrow-in-Furness P.L.

CROWTHER.—Mr. G. Crowther, A.L.A., Senior Assistant, Spensborough P.L., to be Assistant Librarian, Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough.

GRAHAM.—Miss M. Graham, B.A., A.L.A., Assistant Librarian, Aluminium Development Corporation, to be Assistant Librarian, Patent Office.

HARRISON.—Mr. D. Harrison, B.A., F.L.A., Branch Librarian, Sheffield P.L., to be Co-ordination Officer, Branch Libraries, Manchester P.L.

HINDSON.—Mr. R. Hindson, Librarian, W. Bromwich Technical College, to be Librarian, Whessoc Ltd., Darlington.

HOLLAND.—Miss B. Holland, M.A., A.L.A., Senior Assistant, Dorset Co.L., to be Chief Cataloguer, Swindon P.L.

HUMAN.—Miss L. A. Human, A.L.A., Librarian, Wolverhampton and Staffordshire College of Technology, to be Librarian, Isle of Wight Technical College, Newport.

JOHN.—Miss S. M. John, Assistant, Paignton Branch, Devon Co.L., to be Assistant, Richmond P.L.

JONES.—Miss B. M. Jones, Assistant, Oldbury P.L., to be Senior Assistant, Rickmansworth Branch, Herts. Co. L.

MORRIS.—Mr. P. E. Morris, F.L.A., Deputy Borough Librarian of Bexley, to be Borough Librarian.

PHILLIPS.—Mr. J. M. Phillips, A.L.A., Librarian-in-charge, Bridgeton District Library, Glasgow P.L., to be Branch Librarian, Chatham P.L.

(Further entries held over)

## Appointments Vacant

Chartered Librarians are advised to refrain from applying for any post in public libraries demanding Registration Qualifications (A.L.A. or F.L.A.) which is advertised in the General or Clerical Divisions of the National Scales or in accordance with the Miscellaneous Salary Scales

MINISTRY OF SUPPLY requires Assistant Experimental Officer/Experimental Officer (Female) in Library and Information Services Section at the Explosive Research and Development Establishment, Waltham Abbey, Essex. Quals.: G.C.E. (A.L.) or equivalent in Chemistry and Physics. Experience of Library and/or Information duties advantageous. Salary: A.E.O. (min. age 18) £385—£793; E.O. (min. age 28) £913—£1,114. Forms from M.L.N.S., Technical and Scientific Register (K), 26 King Street, London, S.W.1, quoting F 701/8A. Closing date 28th November, 1958.

### UNIVERSITY OF W. AUSTRALIA

Applications are invited for the position of LIBRARIAN in the University of Western Australia. Salary £A3,500 p.a. Conditions of appointment and general information about the University are obtainable from the Secretary, Association of Universities of the British Commonwealth, 36 Gordon Square, London, W.C.1. Applications close, in Australia and London, on 10th December, 1958.

### TIMBER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN required from 1st January, 1959, for small library in central London. Commencing salary from £450 according to qualifications and experience. Contributory pension scheme in operation. Applications in writing to The Librarian, Timber Development Association, 21 College Hill, London, E.C.4.

### OTTAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY

PROFESSIONAL CATALOGUER. Qualifications: University degree and A.L.A. or F.L.A. Commencing salary \$3,450—\$4,000, according to experience. Write to Secretary-Treasurer, Ottawa Public Library, Ottawa 4, Canada.

Contributions and communications (including advertisements) should be sent to the Editor, Chaucer House, Malet Place, London, W.C.1, by the 15th of the month preceding that of publication (Tel. Eus. 5856, ext. 9)

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## Examination Results, Summer 1958: Revised Summary

Owing to postal delays, several overseas scripts were received too late for the results to be included in the Summary published in the September issue of the RECORD. This revised Summary now incorporates all results and replaces the earlier one:

			Sat	Passed	%	Sat	Passed	%
FIRST PROFESSIONAL:			939	383 (7 Merits)				41
REGISTRATION:								
Group A	(i)	587	254	43	}	624	199	32
	(ii)	602	251	42				
	(iii)	577	322 (3 Merits)	56				
Group B	(iv)	508	318 (3 Hons., 20 Merits)	62½	}	529	279 (1 Hons., 10 Merits)	53
	(v)	519	351 (2 Hons., 23 Merits)	68				
Group C	(vi)	537	260 (1 Hons., 11 Merits)	48		537	260 (1 Hons., 11 Merits)	48
Group D	(vii) (a) (i)	317	192 (2 Hons., 28 Merits)	60½	}	557	310 (3 Hons., 36 Merits)	56
	(vii) (a) (ii)	189	85 (1 Hons., 3 Merits)	45				
	(vii) (b)	24	14	58				
	(vii) (c)	27	19 (5 Merits)	70				
Totals for Registration Groups			2,247	1,048 (5 Hons., 57 Merits)				47

Total number of persons sitting Registration: 1,634

Total number of persons completing Registration: 174

			Sat	Passed	%	Sat	Passed	%
FINAL:								
Part 1	1st Paper	111	71 (7 Merits)	64	}	111	41 (2 Merits)	37
	2nd Paper	111	52 (4 Merits)	47				
Part 2	1st Paper	83	55 (1 Merit)	66	}	83	37 (1 Merit)	44½
	2nd Paper (a)	76	43 (7 Merits)	56½				
	(b)	2	1	50				
	(c)	5	5 (3 Merits)	100				
Part 3	(a) (i)	3	3	100	}	68	48 (2 Hons., 14 Merits)	70½
	(a) (ii)	10	10 (2 Hons., 7 Merits)	100				
	(a) (iii)	6	6	100				
	(a) (iv)	17	12 (2 Merits)	70½				
	(a) (v)	18	8 (3 Merits)	44				
	(b)	—	—	—				
	(c)	—	—	—				
	(d)	4	2	50				
	(e)	1	1	100				
	(f)	7	5 (2 Merits)	71				
	(g)	—	—	—				
Part 4	(h)	2	1	50	}	83	44 (1 Hons., 2 Merits)	53
	(i)	—	—	—				
	(a)	1	1	100				
	(b)	18	9	50				
	(c)	20	9	45				
	(d)	44	25 (1 Hons., 2 Merits)	57				
	(f)	—	—	—				
Totals for Final Parts			345	170 (3 Hons., 19 Merits)				49

Total number of persons sitting Final: 277

Total number of persons completing Final: 28

SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE (e)			Sat	Passed	%
			1	0	0
Combined Totals for First Professional, Registration Groups, Specialist Certificate, and Final Parts			Sat	Passed	%
			3,532	1,601 (8 Hons., 83 Merits)	45

Combined total number of persons sitting examinations: 2,851

# Tender

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# Wanted

*Library Review*, Summer 1953 and Autumn, 1953.  
*Librarian and Book World*, Jan. 1950, Aug. 1952, Aug. 1955, April 1957, and indexes for 1950, 1951 and 1957. Details to County Librarian, County Library, Mount Street, Bridgwater, Somerset.

# For Disposal

The County Librarian, County Library, Mount Street, Bridgwater, Somerset, has the following for disposal on payment of carriage.

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